THE PLIGHT OF STREET CHILDREN AND THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE STREET CHILDREN AND VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

A CASE STUDY AT THE FOUNTAIN OF HOPE IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this report has not been previously submitted for a Degree in this or any other University.

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DEDICATION

To my wife Edna Grace Chilombo Mumbi and all our children, Nigel Mukuka, Sheila Chimfwembe, Patricia Chilombo, Helen Mulenga, Edna Namwayi, and Cora Chawe for their sacrifices support and understanding.
Also to my late parents, my mother Ba Chimfwembe Nkolemfumu, my father Ba James Mumbi Lembe for encouraging me to go to school when I was young.
I wish you were here to see and appreciate the fruits of your labour. May your souls rest in peace.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBOS	Community Based Organisations
CSO	Central Statistical Office
DEC	Drug Enforcement Commission
DNYP	Draft National Youth Policy
EU	European Union
FBOS	Faith Based Organisations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOH	Fountain of Hope
GRZ	Government of the Republic of Zambia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICRI	International Child Resource Institute
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
IRIM	International Regional Information Network
KCM	Konkola Copper Mines
MCD	Master of Communication for Development
MMD	Movement for Multi Party Democracy
MYSA	Mathare Youth Sports Association
MYSCD	Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA	Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian affairs
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PCIZ	Project Concern International Zambia
PSRP	Public Sector Reform Programme

RAMCOZ	Roan Antelope Mines Corporation of Zambia
SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
UCZ	United Church of Zambia
UNPFA	United Nations Population Fund Agency
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIP	United National Independence Party
UNZA	University of Zambia
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
YSEI	Youth Skills Enterprise Initiative
ZNS	Zambia National Service
ZRC	Zambia Red Cross

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ABSTRACT

This exposition is a result of the Researcher's three months attachment to the Fountain of Hope Children's Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, during the last quarter of the year 2005. The attachment was in part fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Communications for Development at the University of Zambia.

The concern, which prompted the researcher to undertake this study was the presence of street and vulnerable children at Fountain of Hope (FOH) and in Lusaka generally, their rapid increase in numbers and the depressing conditions under which they live.

Secondly, there was an apparent lack of effective communication and participatory strategies designed to assist the street and vulnerable children to take part in the decisions of their various destinies, by Government, FOH and other stakeholders.

The exposition further shows that previous studies of street children indicate that the unfortunate situation in which these children find themselves is due to many factors, the main ones are the HIV/AIDS pandemic, urbanisation, and industrialisation, migration of people to the towns, poor management of the county's economy by politicians, which have all impacted negatively on the Zambian people. The servicing of the foreign debt was another factor, for the process reduced the resources available for development, which resulted in low expenditure on social services, such as education and health. This situation gave rise to falling standards of living.

The recommendations emanating from previous studies on street children emphasise the need to provide food, clothing, and shelter and in some cases, how they tried to reintegrate the children back into their families. In this study however, the researcher examines the role of communication and participatory strategies in empowering the street and vulnerable children.

The methodologies used to gather information at the FOH are also discussed. They include the non-experimental design of in depth interviews, focus group discussions, questionnaires, documentary search, staff volunteered information and general observations.

The findings at FOH and the investigations in the relevant Government ministries and other stakeholders show that besides the provision of basic needs there is a serious lack of effective communication and participatory strategies in the policies and implementation of decisions pertaining to the plight of street and vulnerable children.

The findings further show that, usually, there are inadequate financial resources at FOH, but when they are available, the management appears to be unable to maximise the use of these meagre resources.

As for the Government side, the problem appears to be that of lack of political will, wrong priorities in fund allocations, which seriously denies the street and vulnerable children basic rights. There is also the absence of a well thought out innovative, technical skills programme based on the abundant natural resources, which would result in sustainable livelihood for the children and their families.

The investigation further shows that there is need for frequent consultation between the street and vulnerable children, who are the intended beneficiaries and the stakeholders who are the benefactors intending to improve the living standards of the children

The exposition underscores the fact that the concepts of communication and participation if handled properly would play an important role in the development of the street children.
A brief reference is made to the studies of street children in selected countries, in order to illustrate different approaches in the care of street and vulnerable children.
The process of empowering vulnerable children through communication and participatory means should be carried out in tandem with improved standards of living for these children and their families. The empowerment would give the children an opportunity to contribute effectively to the various decisions affecting their lives. The question of sustainable livelihood for the street and vulnerable children deserves special attention. Therefore, occupational designs for these children should be innovative, emphasise the creation of sustainable occupations and programmes, based on technical and effective analysis and maximum utilization of the various abundant natural resources.

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND

1.0   Introduction

In order to effectively analyse and understand the under pinnings of the plight of street children and vulnerable children at the Fountain of Hope Centre and in Lusaka, Zambia, it is important to examine briefly the profile of Zambia, its geo-political position in the Southern African region, Socio-economic and cultural parameters in which the problem is set, its history, population, human and natural resources, and debilitating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. This approach will provide an in depth insight, examine the relevant literature and capture the lessons learnt from previous research work.

1.1   The Research

The research encompasses children at the Fountain of Hope Community School based in Kamwala Compound, Lusaka, and was carried out among vulnerable non-orphaned children, single and double orphans and street children in specified areas. Because of the difficulty of overlapping conditions between vulnerability and streetism of the children, the study examined the areas of concern in tandem.

1.2   The Geo-Political Profile of Zambia

Zambia is a former British Colony, which was previously known as Northern Rhodesia, and was ruled by the Colonial Office from 1890 to 1964, when it gained its independence. Before independence, Zambia was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federation was composed of Nyasaland, now Malawi, Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe and Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia. Sir Roy Welensky, an ex-locomotive driver nicknamed "Mazambani", because of his rough mannerisms when driving the Rhodesia Railways train, was the leader of the Federation. The Federation started in 1953 and was dissolved in 1963, after great opposition from Africans in the three countries, who thought that the Federation was a white man's ploy to continue exploiting the Africans. On October 24, 1964, Zambia gained her political independence, bringing to an end 74 years of British Colonial rule.

The two Rhodesia's were named after the South Africa railway pioneer and businessman Cecil John Rhodes. While the name Zambia comes from the mighty Zambezi River, whose source is in the Lunda uplands at the North-Western edge of Zambia, near the border with

Angola. It starts as an insignificant trickle out of the ground and then gradually widens and rapidly grows into a large river, which briefly disappears into Angola from where it re-emerges in Zambia at the extreme north-western corner, as the mighty Zambezi. From here, it majestically meanders around the western, southern and eastern edges of Zambia until it exits through Mozambique to its resting-place, in the Indian Ocean.

1.2.1 Natural Resources

Zambia is situated on the great plateau of Central Africa, which is 1,000 to 1,600 metres above sea level. Its vegetation is mainly savannah woodlands and grassland. The country has tropical climate with three distinct seasons, the cool and dry season, the hot and dry season and the hot and wet season. The country has abundant natural resources. There are five main rivers, namely Zambezi, Kafue, Luangwa, Luapula, and Chambeshi. In addition to the rivers, the country has five lakes, namely Tanganyika, Mweru, Mweru Wantipa, Bangweulu, and the man made lakes of Itezhitezhi and Kariba. Lake Kariba is the largest man-made lake in Africa and the second largest in the world. (UNDP, 2001). Other interesting geographical features include the Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Ntumba Chushi and Kalambo falls. The critical factor is to turn all these abundant natural resources into opportunity and productivity especially for the young people, which can positively contribute to the reduction of poverty in the country.

The country is also endowed with some of nature's best wildlife and game reserves. This affords the country abundant potential for earning foreign exchange through tourism. The magnificent Luangwa and Kafue National Parks have some of the most prolific animal populations in Africa. The country is also endowed with various minerals and precious stones such as Copper, Emeralds, Zinc, Lead and Cobalt. Copper is still the backbone of the country's economy. Zambia holds 6 percent of the world's copper reserves and it has been the fourth largest copper producer in the world (UNDP, 2001:22).

Since minerals are a perishable commodity, there is urgent need to streamline and strategise the exploitation of the country's mineral resources. Government should fund and put in place a policy framework which would encourage Zambian investors to be involved in mining especially in precious stones, adding value to the minerals and exporting them to the global market. This approach would encourage Zambians to be involved in various aspects of

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mining and reduce the present dependence on foreign investors, who indulge in the repatriation of the much needed foreign currency they earn from Zambia.

Zambia, in which Lusaka is the Capital City, is a landlocked country, covering an area of 752,612 square kilometres, representing about 2.5 per cent of the total surface area of Africa. The country is divided into nine provinces with 72 districts, while five out of ten Zambians live in urban areas. Zambia is one of the most urbanised countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with about 36 percent of the population living in the urban areas. The country shares borders with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania to the north, Malawi and Mozambique to the east, Zimbabwe and Botswana to the south, Namibia to the southwest and Angola to the west. This situation is a boon and a blessing, since Zambia would act as a fulcrum of the SADC countries' business needs of producing, exporting and importing various goods and services into the region.
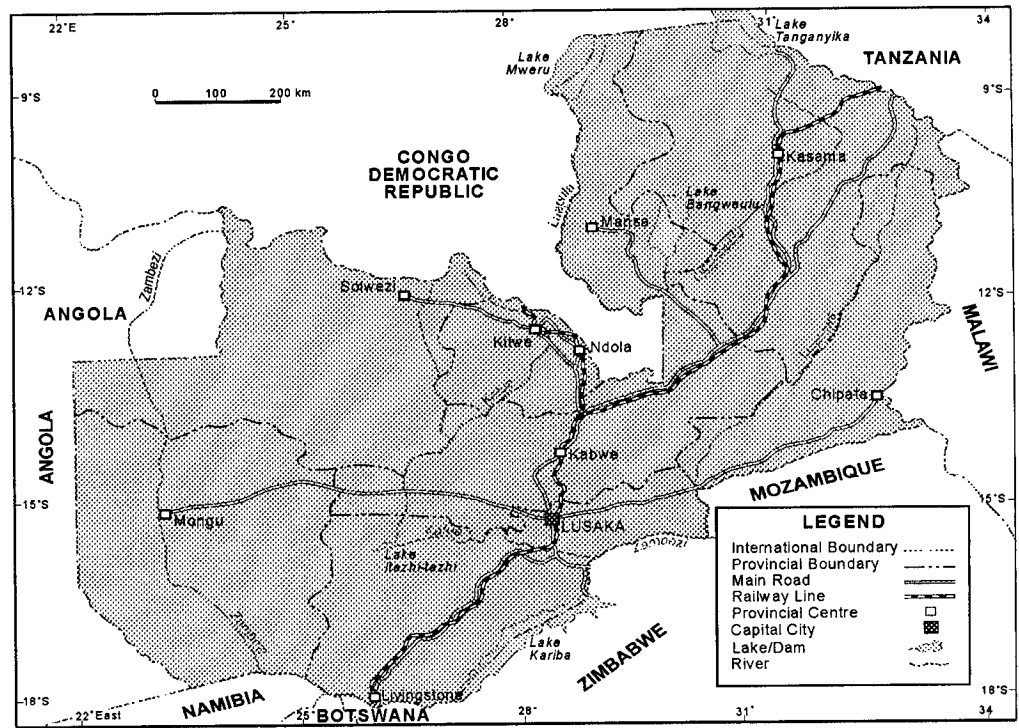
Figure 1

Map of Zambia showing its neighbours: Source – Geography Department UNZA

1.2.2 Language

English is the official language and most urban Zambians speak it fluently. In rural areas however, English is not commonly used as a language of communication. Instead, local

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languages are used by the majority of people. The main vernacular languages are Bemba, which is spoken in the Northern, Luapula and Copperbelt Provinces. Nyanja, mainly spoken in Eastern and Lusaka Provinces, Tonga, spoken in Southern and Central Provinces, Lozi, commonly used in Western Province, Kaonde, Luvale and Lunda languages are commonly used in North-Western Province. It is interesting to note that, since language is a vector of culture the use of the English language in Zambia has negatively contributed to the dilution of Zambian cultures and an increase in ethnocentric ideas. (Makuvadza 1996:43).

1.2.3 The Economy

Zambia has a mixed economy consisting of a modern urban oriented sector confined to the line of rail and a rural agricultural sector. In 1991, Zambia adopted an open, private sector-driven economy with minimum Government interference. Zambia's economy is based largely on copper and cobalt mining. Copper as the country's economic main stay, accounts for approximately 95 percent of the country's export earnings. However, due to unfavourable copper prices since 1975, the export earnings were declining. The decline was partly responsible for the poor performance of the real sector of the economy that mainly depends on imported raw materials and capital goods. Also, the mines, which were sold to private companies, had poor safety standards and were not operating to the best interest of the country. The Luanshya and Kabwe mines were closed, rendering many people jobless and negatively affecting the economy of the country.

In an attempt to address this problem, Government adopted the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1991, with the intention of creating macro-economic stability in the economy. Measures taken included liberalisation of trade, prices, interest and Foreign Exchange rates, removal of subsidies, privatisation, and reduction in public expenditure and public sector reform.

From the year 2004, the Government economic measures began to pay dividends, For example, the former Roan Antelope Mining Corporation (RAMCOZ) was re-privatised and sold to J and W of Switzerland who re-opened the mine. Also, the blow suffered at Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) Plc, by the withdrawal of Anglo-American was heeded by Vendata Resources of India as a Strategic equity partner with the Government of the Republic of Zambia.

The current mining investments have given a new lease of life to the economy in Zambia; as illustrated below:

Kansenshi mining Plc in 2006 produced 85,000 metric tonnes of copper and the estimated production for 2007 is 165,000 metric tones. Their total investment in the country so far is USD360 million, with a workforce of 1,169 employees.

Mopani Copper mines Plc produced 110,771 metric tonnes of copper, while in 2004 production was 160,613 metric tonnes. The company also produced 21,961 metric tonnes of cobalt in 2002 and 2,044 in 2004, with a work force of 15,956 people.

Konkola Copper Mines Plc produced 187,555 metric tonnes of copper cathodes and from January 2004 to March 2005 produced 228,311 metric tonnes while capital expenditure in 2003 was US 96,424 million. Total workforce was 12,624 people.

Luansyha Copper Mines Plc for the last 18 months; had a cash outlay of USD 247 Million and in 2005, employed 2,470 people who produced 50,267 copper concentrates and 803,080 metric tonnes of milled ore. There are also many companies prospecting for different minerals in Zambia at the moment.

The increased copper production has been complimented with rising copper prices on the London Metal Exchange. This trend has contributed among other things to the strengthening of the kwacha against the United States dollar.

(Hon. Kaunda Lemba Lemba, Minister of Mines Address to Parliament: 2006)

1.2.4 Balance of Payment Status

The country's balance of payments status has mainly depended on the performance of the mining industry. Despite the additional foreign Exchange earnings from non-traditional exports, Zambia continued to pay more to the outside world than it earned from its exports. Hence the poor balance of payments performance. However with the accomplishment of the HIPC completion point, in the year 2005 the debt burden has now been reduced considerably

1.2.5 GDP

Structurally, Zambia's economy has changed little in-spite of the changes in economic policies and consistent high economic growth has been elusive. During 1980 to 1990 periods, the country's economic growth was the second lowest in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), after that of the lowest average annual growth rate in the SADC region, at one percent. This was also below the Sub-Sahara Africa rate of 1.4 percent. Consequently, per Capita GDP has shown a downward trend over the years since independence.

1.2.6 Employment

The total working population in formal employment has increased over the years from 1,072,379 in 1980 to 1,838,409 in 1990. Between the period 1990 and 2000 the labour force increased by an average annual growth rate of 3.6 percent. Overall unemployment rates have declined from 15 percent in 1990 to 13 per cent in 2000. With the emphasis on services rather than production the formal employment sector has continued to shrink leading to the expansion of the informal sector, which unfortunately has led to increase in incidences of child abuse and child labour, giving rise to the street child phenomenon.

1.2.7 The Three Republics

At Independence in 1964, Zambia enjoyed unprecedented prosperity, which began to fall by the end of the first ten years of independence. Zambia's economy rose and fell with copper prices.

During the First Republic, under the United National Independence Party (UNIP) Government, which lasted until 1972, Zambia practised plural politics. The Second Republic followed from 1972 to 1991. This era was marked by a One Party-State, with bankrupt political ideas such as Humanism, Nationalisation of private property, with its off shoots of negative communication and participation by Zambians in their own affairs. Under the monolithic One Party State Zambians were under a State of Emergency for 27 years and did not effectively take part in the affairs of the country. This was the show of the oligarchy, Kenneth Kaunda and his members of the Central Committee. The economy was also dwindling, caused by dependence on copper whose price had fallen, mismanagement of public companies, lack of manpower with appropriate skills, world increase in the price of oil, resulting in a disillusioned population, with shortages of food and essential commodities. These conditions led to the change of government.

The Third Republic under the Movement for Multi Party Democracy (MMD) started in 1991. Although plural politics were re-introduced, the social-economic indicators continued to show serious decline with worsening living conditions for most Zambians, visible poverty, unemployment, a marked migration of the people to the urban areas, lack of new infrastructure creation and vivid absence of maintenance culture for existing infrastructure. This state of affairs became a fertile ground for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, anti-social

behaviour, and customary family disintegration, giving rise to the beginning of the street child phenomenon.

1.2.8 Administrative Structures

Zambia's administrative structure has been under review since the Public Sector Reform Programme (PSRP) came into being in 1993. The main objectives of the PSRP are to rationalise public expenditure and improve service delivery. Central government runs under the fundamental principle of a National Constitution. The Constitution provides for the Executive, comprising the Republican President, Vice President, Ministers and Civil Servants. The Legislature which is made up of the Republican President and the National Assembly, the Judiciary which is made up of the Supreme Court, High Court, Magistrate and Local Courts.

Zambia is administered through nine provinces that are further divided into 72 districts, some of which are relatively new with emerging district management structures. In the last 15 years, a Civil Society has grown, not only as a pressure group, but also as a parallel support to the effort of the Government, to provide social services and create employment. Communities are now being nurtured to develop the culture, attitudes and practices to take up civic responsibility at local level.

1.2.9 Poverty '

Poverty is a serious problem in Zambia. The Living Conditions Monitoring Surveys of 1986 and 1988 through to 1990s indicate that in general, poverty in most of the critical dimensions did increase. The increase in poverty, which resulted from high unemployment levels, gave rise to criminal tendencies, prostitution and anti-social behaviour in the young people in particular, and contributed to streetism.

1.3 HIV/AIDS

In Zambia, human capital formation that is necessary to generate sustained growth is impeded not only by lack of adequate social sector expenditure but also by a major factor, namely the high incidence of HIV/AIDS. Sixteen percent of the adult population aged between 15 and 49 years inclusive is stricken by this disease and related opportunistic infections. Principally, HIV/AIDS threatens the country's capacity building efforts because it strikes both the educated and uneducated population. Consequently, this impedes the country's capacity to develop by shortening human productivity and life expectancy. The long periods of illness of the skilled personnel in employment has translated into severe loss

in economic productivity, which leads to considerable loss to the employer in terms of man-hours.

Zambia's first reported AIDS diagnosis was in 1984. At the end of year 2003, UNAIDS/WHO estimated that 16.5% of people aged between 15 to 49 years were living with HIV, of these 820,000 were adults, 57% were women (UNAIDS/WHO AIDS epidemic update, December 2004). Young women aged between 15 to 19 years are six times more likely to be infected than are males of the same age (Zambia Summary Country Profile for HIV/AIDS Treatment Scale-up, UNAIDS/WHO, July 2004).

Nearly half of Zambia's population is under 15 years old. According to UNAIDS/WHO estimates, 85,000 of these children were living with HIV at the end of 2003.

People in need have traditionally been supported by their extended families, but the toll of HIV/AIDS epidemic is now so great that family structures can no longer cope. Stigma compounds the problem and many of those affected by HIV/AIDS become socially excluded. Often when a male head of household dies, property is "grabbed" by the deceased's relatives, leaving the widow and children with nothing. Many children are therefore abandoned due to the stigma or lack of resources. Others run away because they have been mistreated and abused by foster families. Many such children congregate in big cities, where they live by begging, stealing and prostitution.

"In the days before the impact of HIV/AIDS pandemic, street children were a very rare sight in Zambian cities and towns. Now they are everywhere – Sleeping under bridges, behind walls and shop corridors" (Dr. Manasseh Phiri) {Reflecting on AIDS; Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Manasseh Phiri, Kasisi Children's Home 2001] (HIV/AIDS in Zambia – The Epidemic and its impact A VERT.ORG)

1.4   Agriculture

The real rate in the agriculture sector has fluctuated significantly mainly due to the sector's high dependence on seasonal rainfall, reduced investment and the failure to strategically position the sector according to its comparable advantage. The sector's contribution to GDP average 18 percent from 1993 to 2003. Agriculture based export earnings increased from US$ 46.5 Million in 1995 to US$ 133.9 Million in 1999, thus demonstrating the enormous potential the sector possesses. Some 75 per cent of the Zambian population is engaged in agriculture, largely subsistence which remains vulnerable to weather fluctuations. (CSO Agricultural Statistics 2003)

1.5 Education

Zambia has a pyramid formation of education structure with two government universities. The University of Zambia at the Great East Road Campus and the Copperbelt University. There is also a proposed private Catholic University to be set up in Kalulushi on the Copperbelt, an SDA University in the Southern Province and an Open University in Lusaka. The education sector has experienced low enrolment, low progress, and high drop out rate and poor attendance. This has been mainly due to the fact that most parents are unemployed. The teachers are de-motivated, children often tend to the sick family members, have teenage pregnancies, walk long distances to school and have poor learning environment. Also, the children are malnourished, lack appropriate training skills and consequently are unable to achieve their full learning potential.

1.6 Population

Zambia has five major ethnic groups. These include the Bemba, Lozi, Tonga, Ngoni and the North-Western group of Kaonde, Lunda and Luvale who altogether are made up of seventy-two dialects. These groups live in harmony with each other. This setting contributes to the variety and friendly hospitable environment Zambia is known for worldwide. The urban areas have higher population densities than the rural areas due to rapid urbanisation. In 1963 Zambia's population was 3.41 million and according to the 1990 census, the population was estimated at 7.76 million. During the latest Population Census in 2002, Zambia's population was estimated at 10,285,000 with a male to female distribution of 49.3 percent and 50.7 percent, respectively. The average growth rate shows a decline, being 2.9 percent compared to the previous national average of 3.1 per cent (2000 Census of Population and Housing 2001:1-8).

Population density across the land varies from 65.4 persons per square kilometre in Lusaka, the Capital to 4.9 persons per square kilometre in North-Western Province. Although urban-rural migration has slowed down, four out of every ten Zambians are located in urban areas, most of them are along the line of rail. Since Independence, Zambia has been hosting refugees largely from unstable neighbouring countries. However, more recently the sudden influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola has changed the population profile in districts sharing borders with these countries, resulting in increased population growth rates. According to the 2000 Census, Lusaka Province has seen an

increase in the population from 991,226 in 1990 to 1.4 million in 2000. More than 75 percent of the population 1.1 Million people live in Lusaka District. The increase of population in Lusaka has led to the mushrooming of several peri-urban settlements which is a result of an influx of people from other towns in Zambia, the neighbouring countries and the rural-urban migration.

1.7 Summary

This chapter shows that Zambia is a vast country with an area of 752,612 square kilometres, which is about 2.5 percent of the total surface of Africa. This country has enormous human and natural resources. It is centrally placed in the southern part of the African continent, with water, road, railway and airways transport links to its neighbours. All this is crowned with its hard earned peace, which is the envy of all its neighbours. If the various potentialities in agriculture, mining, tourism, agro-forestry, fishing and water transport are properly managed, technically exploited, processed, canalised efficiently and vigorously marketed, there should be no reason why Zambia should not find sustainable solutions to the problems of street children.

CHAPTER 2

2.0   RATIONALE

2.1 Introduction

"Imiti Ikula e mpanga"

"Imiti Ikula e mpanga" This is a Bemba proverb, which translates that the young trees in the forest today will make full-grown trees in the forest of the future. Therefore, the street children who are part of the young today must be nurtured and carefully looked after. The study is important because it investigates the effectiveness of communication among and between the street children and the various stakeholders, in order to improve the children's participation in the decisions that affect their lives. Also, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention, "Children's opinions are important and their views must be taken into account concerning the realisation of their rights. They should effectively participate in decision-making processes that affect them, in a manner appropriate to their evolving capacities.

Since the children of today, especially the street children who are currently an "Economic-Political-Social time bomb", will be the adults of tomorrow, it is important to consider investing time and money in the amelioration of their economic and psycho-social problems. It is envisaged that the research being undertaken will contribute to the creation of improved effective communication between the street children and the various stakeholders, culminating into the street children's active participation in the decision making process and empowering these vulnerable children to positively contribute to their future and the development of Zambia.

2.2   Concerns and Information Related Research

2.2.1 The problem concerns the actual existence of street children, the increase in their numbers on the streets in the urban areas of Zambia and the lack of effective communication between them and the various stakeholders, which leads to unsustainable solutions and programmes designed to help them. In support of this view, it has been stated by officials from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, that in the past, some street children who trained in carpentry and bricklaying but were unable to get employment, returned to the streets and sold their tools. The point is that the street children were not

consulted about the skills training programme. Secondly the employment market was already saturated with the skills chosen, and there was no funding available for self employment opportunities.

2.2.2 The street children have found themselves on the streets mainly because of the impact of poverty, HIV/AIDS and related social-economic issues. It is important that Government should put in place measures to reduce poverty and educate the people including the street children, about the effects and consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Therefore, Government should urgently mobilise financial resources and come up with effective programmes for rehabilitating street children. These programmes should be effectively communicated to the street children, who should have a choice if possible, allowing them to participate in the planning and the implementation of the programmes, according to their evolving capacities.

2.2.3 Research carried out by the Living Conditions and Monitoring Survey (LCMS) of 1996 found that

> "There were four (4) million Zambian children under the age of 18. Thirteen percent of these were orphans; and that orphan-hood was mainly due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Secondly that the rapid increase in the population of street children in recent years, has been largely due to the increasing levels of poverty; with an estimate that "about 75 percent of Zambia's population lived in poverty." (Zambia Human Development Report 1999/2000 UNDP, 2001). In fact, it is said that poverty pushes children from poor families on the streets in order for them to survive.
>
> In 1998, the Zambian Human Development Report estimated that, "75,000 children were street children. That over two-thirds of these were children between the ages of 6 – 14 years, of which, the majority were boys. Forty percent of the street children had lost both parents and that 7 percent of the street children had no home to return to."

2.2.4 Research has also established that the Outstanding Social-Economic Factors, affecting the street children, the extended families and the communities they live in are a manifestation of HIV/AIDS pandemic and poverty. Poverty here is defined as, the inability of the poor people to meet their needs for food, clothing, shelter, health care, education and other basic requirements.

In 1996, it was established that 70 percent of Zambians lived below the poverty datum line and that the percentage of persons living in poverty in rural areas was considerably higher than in urban areas. In 1997, the per capita income was USD 308, and that nearly three quarters of Zambian children lived below the poverty datum line with little notable qualitative or quantitative difference between orphans, vulnerable children and others.

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Further research studies indicate that the number of street children is likely to increase because of the growing number of children being orphaned, due to their parents dying of HIV/AIDS. As the number of these children increases, a severe strain is put on the extended families, which have traditionally taken care of the orphans. The pressure on the socio-economic conditions of the families will make more children to go on the streets, in order to fend for themselves. The inherent dangers of street life, economic and parental deprivation and the lack of effective socialisation make street children extremely vulnerable. The studies by Lungwangwa and Macwangi in 1996 found out that :-

> The actual numbers of street children are rather difficult to establish; since "Street Children can be difficult to quantify, for they range on a continuum from those who live at home but spend a great deal of time 'hanging out' to those who live on the street often in abandoned buildings and packing lots whose financial and personal support comes from the street" (Muir, 1991). On the same platitude, Opoku (1996) categorises street children into three economic groups. Children on the Street, Children of the Street and abandoned Children. Children on the Street are those engaged in some kind of economic activity ranging from begging to vending of manufactured commodities or food. Most of these go home at the end of the day and contribute part of their earnings for the economic survival of the family unit. They may be attending school and retain a sense of belonging to a family or household. Because of the economic fragility of their families, these children may eventually opt for a permanent life on the street. Children of the Street actually live on the street. Family ties may exist, but are tenuous and maintained only casually or occasionally. Most of these children have no permanent residence and move from place to place and from town to town. Abandoned Children are entirely without a home and have no contact whatsoever with their families. Some of these are children abandoned at a very early age who have little or no knowledge of their families. There is therefore, rarely a successful way of re-integrating them into original home environments.

Other concerns refer to factors, which have destabilised the family unit and contributing to "Child Streetism". Industrialisation, urbanisation, and modernisation have impacted negatively on the weak Zambian social matrix, causing disintegration of the extended family unit. As a consequence, economic activities are removed from the family. As the family ceases to be an economic unit of production, some family members leave the household in search of work on the labour market in town. The family's role becomes more of emotional gratification and socialisation. Demands for mobility of the family bring about the individuation and isolation of the nuclear family. If the family has to move about through the labour market, it cannot afford to carry all its relatives with it or even maintain close diffuse

ties with the extended kin. Should the bread winner die in such a mobile family, the death would impact negatively on the siblings and this may lead to a situation where such affected children may become street children, due to the lack of effective "communication" and parental care. (Neil J. Smelser. 1966).

2.3 Children's Human Rights

It is important to carry out this study in order to make it possible for the street children to enjoy their full human rights of parental and community care; have adequate food, clothing, shelter, education and health care, so that they can in return positively participate and contribute to the development of Zambia and the world as a whole.

Secondly, under the United Nations Convention, the Convention of the Rights of the Child offers a framework and form strategic principles for applying elements of a human rights approach to programming of Children's rights.

2.3.1 The first principle is that:

> "The best interests of the Child must be a primary consideration in all decisions and actions that may affect the child, and must reflect a balance between the child's short and long term interests. Relevant factors in such a determination must include the child's level of development and expressed wishes or feelings, as well as the availability of resources necessary for the child's survival, development and participation."

2.3.2 The Second principle

The second principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is non-discriminatory. It states that:

> "All Children female or male, poor or rich, with disabilities or without must be regarded as equally entitled to human rights because human rights are universal."

2.3.3 The third Principle is:

> "The right to life, survival, and development. In this regard it is crucial to take into account the issue of accessibility which seeks to guarantee the right to basic services and equality of opportunity for all individuals to achieve their full development".

This is based on distributive justice, which implies adopting positive measures to ensure that policies and programmes reach all members of society.

2.3.4 The fourth principle is that:

"Respect for the views and voices of children to be heard and respected. It stresses that children's opinions are important and their views must be taken into account concerning the realisation of their rights. They should participate in decision making processes that affect them, in a manner appropriate to their evolving capacities."

There are two important considerations, which are embedded in this notion. That is, as the child grows or develops, she or he must be accorded greater autonomy in the determination of her or his short-term interests. Secondly, participation must contribute to the child's development and to build its evolving capacities.

Therefore, it is important to emphasise that the current condition and status of the "Street Child" may be due to multifarious negative experiences of poor economic conditions, political, social, cultural, HIV/AIDS pandemic, technical and capitalistic tendencies, which have negated the community's responses to the problems of the "Street Child". However, this is not reason enough to abandon the traditional norms and values of extended family responsibilities, because if the negative attitude towards the "Street Child" succeeds then the cultural and social fabric would be completely impoverished and destroyed.

2.4 Summary

After laying the foundation of this report in Chapter One which is the great country of Zambia with its abundant human and natural resources, giving rise to a myriad of opportunities; the report proceeds to examine the rational of the study and some of the concerns affecting the street and vulnerable children. The fact is, the young people who include the street and vulnerable children of today will in time become the adults of tomorrow. Therefore it is important to carefully prepare them for their future obligations and responsibilities. They should be allowed to enjoy their full human rights now, which among other things include protecting them from HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. For the children to maximise their potentialities, there should be effective communication between them and the various stake-holders.

The researcher at this point was interested in finding out as to what communication and participatory strategies the FOH, Government and other stake-holders used in order to empower the street and vulnerable children in order for them to understand and control their various destinies.

CHAPTER 3

OBJECTIVES AND EXECUTION

3.1 Introduction

The problem as seen by the researcher is lack of communication channels and participatory strategies in resolving the street and vulnerable children's problems. Therefore, the researcher has endeavoured to investigate the existence of effective communication and participatory practices among and between the street children and the various stakeholders concerned. The following objectives are therefore examined in detail:

3.1.1 Examine existing communication and participatory theories for strategies, which would empower the street children in making decisions in order to maximise their potentialities, increase their capabilities and alleviate their problems.

3.1.2 Examine the nature of communication and participation linkages between street children, and various stakeholders, their families and communities, which would be specific and measurable, with a view to improve their interaction and the lives of the street children.

3.1.3 Investigate the degree of participation by street children in the discussions and decisions made by Stakeholders concerning the welfare of the children.

3.1.4 Analyse the use of communication and participatory approaches in interventions related to the problems of street children.

The research on the street children was carried out mainly on male and female children at the Fountain of Hope, an organisation catering for vulnerable and street children based in Kamwala Compound, Lusaka, Zambia. The work also encompassed Government Ministries, which are currently mandated to handle the problems of street children. These are the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development, the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Defence (Zambia National Service). Included also were parents, the community and some Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 In-Depth Interviews

A non-experimental design of in depth interviews was used in order to obtain detailed information on the attitudes, behaviour and characteristics of the street children. However,

because of the nature of the study, it was necessary to triangulate the research instruments so that benefits can accrue from both the qualitative and quantitative approaches.

3.2.2 Questionnaire

In the Survey, a sample of 100 interviewees was considered, because of the time constraint and the lack of financial resources. The interviews were conducted by the proponent, assisted by one person. The questionnaire was pre-tested in order to determine the clarity, acceptability and effectiveness of the questions. On the prepared questionnaires sheets the bio-data included demographic, psychographic, socio-graphic and economic data. Also a statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) was used as the software in the final data analysis.

The questionnaires were designed in such a way as to get individual answers without the influence of other peoples' opinions that sometimes happens in focus group discussions.

3.2.3 Focus Group Discussions

Focus Group Discussions were used in obtaining information from staff and members of the community at the FOH centre. During the discussions, a micro-tape recorder was used with the permission of the interviewees, while the questions were designed in such a way as to encourage the people to talk freely about their experiences with vulnerable and street children at the Fountain of Hope. This method of collecting information by Focus Group Discussion is well documented by researchers like Wimmer and Dominick. They state that:-

"In a focus group discussion the interviewer works from a list of broad questions as well as more refined probe questions hence, follow up on important points raised by participants in the group is easy. The ability to clear up confusing respondents makes the use of the focus group valuable in the research process" (Wimmer and Dominick, 1997:97)

3.3. Limitations

The limitations derived from the lack of adequate financial resources to facilitate the operations of the various investigations.
Secondly the commencement of the work was delayed because the FOH community school went on recess when the study was initially expected to start.

3.4 Research Questions

The following are the proposed Research questions in this study: -

1. To what extent do the street children participate in the efforts by stakeholders to solve their problems?

2. What are the existing participation and communication channels and strategies being used to address the problems of street children? Are they adequate?

Following from the research questions, the study examined the problems of the street children by applying the communication and participation theories to the social-economic and political environment in which these children live, so as to try and bring out the concerns and explain the links between the problem of the street children and the proposed theories. Besides the main communication and participation theories being considered in this study, mention and application of subsidiary theories was made, of the Human Development Theory and the Participatory Communication for Development Theory.

3.5 Literature Review

3.5.1 Introduction

In the literature review, initial consideration has been given to three studies, which are the "Orphans and Vulnerable Children, a situation analysis, Zambia, 1999" jointly conducted by UNICEF/USAID/SIDA Study Fund Project. Secondly the "Rapid Assessment of street children in Lusaka" by NGO's with technical and financial support from Project Concern International Zambia, UNICEF Zambia, NETAID and the West Foundation promoted by Dr. Musonda Lemba of the University of Zambia. Thirdly a study of street children conducted by the Department of Child Affairs, Ministry of General Education and Culture of the Republic of Zambia, with support and assistance of UNICEF, LUSAKA, Peter Tocon, co-ordinated by Prof. Geoffrey Lungwangwa of the University of Zambia (November 1991).

3.5.2 Major Issues from the Literature Review

The major issues emerging from the literature review were as follows: -
On the definition and incidence, the documents reviewed agreed unanimously that orphan-hood constitutes an enormous and increasing problem in Zambia and neighbouring countries. However, they disagreed on the definition of an orphan and on the numerical size of the problem. There were difficulties in distinguishing between orphans and non-orphans; the orphan as a person and not a statistic or object to be entered into records. Arising from this came the plea that interventions should pay greater attention to the orphan as a person, and that they should show greater sensitivity to the psychological needs of the child.

3.5.3 The Literature Review also raises the issues of the child, that the status of orphans is not adequately understood or well protected in relation to their human rights to health, education, protection from physical, verbal and sexual abuse; their right to equitable treatment, without discrimination and their right not to be exploited through the imposition of manual work.

3.5.4 The question of stigma and discrimination attached to HIV/AIDS infected persons and their siblings; and the idea of incorporating the orphans into a family. They state that the orphan's greatest need is for a family structure, headed by a responsible adult and located in a community. The essence of this strategy stresses that:

> "The first line of approach should be to try to meet the orphan's needs to be in the company of his or her siblings, in a blood-related family, living in a familiar community, institutional care is never a favoured option. It should be considered only in two circumstances; as a temporary arrangement while discussions are underway for the within-family placement of an orphan and as reluctant arrangement of last resort."

3.5.5 Other areas reviewed include, the extended family, community mobilisation, the contribution of civil society, the role of the Government, the inadequate geographical coverage, the inadequate cultural coverage, the information base Support Agencies difficulty in coping and absence of solutions that can be brought to scale.

> The main points coming out of the literature reviews are that poverty, economic decline of the country and HIV/AIDS pandemic have exacerbated the conditions of the orphan children and street children. That the response to this tragedy should include the individuals, family, communities, NGO's, donors, government and all stakeholders. Responsibility therefore, lies with the entire society, who should participate in preventing and alleviating the effect of the orphan and street children problems.

3.6   The first Literature Review

The report initially examines the literature Review in the situation analysis of orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia". The Situation Analysis write up was as a result of the concerns expressed by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, NGO's, donor and religious institutions, over the impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty and the poor performance of the economy, on the orphans and vulnerable children in the country. The situation analysis of orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia was funded by UNICEF, USAID, and SIDA and supported by the Government of the Republic of Zambia. The aim of the Situation Analysis was to understand the situation of orphaned children in Zambia and to assess models of care

in order to strengthen and improve strategies that aimed at addressing the needs of individuals, households and communities in dealing with orphan hood.

The purpose of the Situation Analysis was to provide the necessary background information on the issues so as to help to focus the research, while providing information on the types and scopes of interventions that aimed at addressing the problems of orphaned children. Specifically, the objectives were to,

> "Share information on the key issues;
>
> Give knowledge of results of other research, both in Zambia and elsewhere;
>
> Identify information gaps; and
>
> Provide focus to subsequent research."

The Situation Analysis examined many research works and publications on the plight of orphans and vulnerable children, and settled for eighty-five of these works. While this study has examined all the summaries of these research expositions, emphasis will be put on those that have dealt more with street children. The studies mainly looked at the demographic aspects and implications of the orphans' situation resulting from the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

3.7 The Second literature Review

This refers to the study of street children commissioned by the Zambia National Task Force on education for all in the late 1990's. The objectives for the study were: -

- To assess the extent of street children in Zambia
- To find out the extent of the influence of factors such as broken homes, household changes economic crisis, in the creation of the phenomenon of street children.
- To examine the factors that affect the survival of the street children

The overall objective of the study was to defend the Rights and meet the needs of the street children. The aim was to generate data regarding the problems and needs of Zambian street children, which would lead into the development of policies and strategies directed towards enhancing Children's Rights, protection, respect and opportunity in the country.

The Study was initiated by the Government of the Republic of Zambia sponsored by UNICEF and carried out by Peter Tacon and consulted by Geoffrey Lungwangwa of the

University of Zambia, in November 1991. In this study, UNICEF was able to define a Street Child as:-

> "Any girl or boy... for whom the street (in the widest sense of the word, including unoccupied dwellings, wasted land) has become his or her habitual abode and or source of livelihood and is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults."

The Study put the number of street children worldwide at approximately 30 Million (1991), although the numbers could have been higher and included different characteristics of runaways, orphans, or abandoned children. The study indicated that:-

3.7.1 The street, to the children is a source of livelihood, interaction and human relationship.

3.7.2 It was established that the issue of streetism is closely related to the levels of urbanisation and unemployment. That the higher the levels of these two factors, the higher in the incidence of street children.

3.7.3 The Study further established that findings from a number of available studies seem to point to patterns about street children similar to those of Zambia. The studies stated that the street children were generally failures that had dropped out of school, although they had the ability and creativity to sustain them on the street.

3.7.4 In Mexico for example, it was established that the characteristics of street children were that: -

> These children were disproportionately made, tend to come from poor homes, they are on the streets primarily to earn an income, they are from large families which have a history of physical abuse, from female headed households, single parents or non-parent households, that very few of the children live on the street on full-time basis and that a large majority maintain family ties.

3.7.5 In Namibia on the other hand, it was established that street children were usually male, black, poor and between 11 and 14 years old, came from families, which were also poor; to which the children returned nightly or regularly. That they have a mother who is very possibly unemployed; they live in overcrowded homes with a possibility of 10 to 15 people. They work on the street to earn food or money to support their families. They experience alcohol and substance abuse within the family and perhaps even affecting them. They attend school or have dropped out in earlier grades. They are physically or psychologically bored at home; still have self –esteem

and the desire to be esteemed and respected by others and are full of spirit, eager to learn, and anxious to improve their lot in life.

It is interesting to note that the above findings in Mexico and Namibia have very close similarities in their findings with studies in Zambia.

3.8 The Third Literature Review

This was a Rapid Assessment of street children" of 2001 by Project Concern International Zambia, consulted by Dr. Musonda Lemba, University of Zambia and supported by UNICEF Zambia, NET AID and the West Foundation. The objectives of the Rapid Assessment included the following: -

"To provide information on the basic demographics and background characteristics of street children in Lusaka, conditions faced by them, and their primary needs.

To provide information to NGO's, the Government and other stakeholders for planning and implementing a well co-ordinated programme to withdraw street children in a manner that met their needs and respected their basic rights.

To build the capacity of NGO's to systematically gather information on street children.

The assessment had limitations due to the fact that interviewers were not adequately trained, leading to a number of errors and inconsistencies in the final data. Secondly, the questionnaire also had some structural problems, which delayed data processing. The recommendations were focused in the area of community and family support, government policy, service provision standards, and networking. The need to target not only street children but also their families and communities as part of a longer-term strategy to facilitate the re-integration of street children and to prevent further migration to the streets.

3.8.1 The information emanating from the literature Reviews concentrates on the assessment of models of care for vulnerable children and street children, in order to strengthen and improve strategies that are aimed at addressing the needs of individuals, families and communities.

3.8.2 The reviews highlight the impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty and poor economies on the vulnerable children and street children. While at the same time carrying out comparative studies between Zambia and some neighbouring countries on the same issues.

There is a conspicuous omission of communication and participatory strategies in the process of attempting to combat or reduce child streetism. It is hoped therefore that the study on the "plight of street children in Lusaka" will endeavour to investigate and contribute positively in this respect.

3.8.3 Street children in Latin America and the Caribbean, by the International child resource Institute (ICRI – 24th April 1995 by Caius Brandao – ICRI Brazil, Project Coordinator)

The study explores the killings of street children and the ineffectiveness of the law in protecting the children from the aggrieved businessmen and law enforcement accomplices who benefited financially from the killings of the street children.

3.8.4 Adrean Scheid – Meso America – January 1995 "Caught in the crossfire" The study highlighted the plight of Nicaragua's street children, who were divided into four groups, composed of war-orphans, children from broken homes, abandoned children and the glue sniffers.

The emphasis of this study was on the excessive poverty levels of the children and the effect of drug abuse whish caused irreversible brain damage, paralysis, kidney or liver failure and eventually death.

3.8.5 - Study of street children in Nicaragua – by the Ministry of Social Action, funded by UNICEF. This study established that 75% of Nicaraguan households registered poverty level incomes and the hardest hit were the children under five years who registered 86% and those between the ages of six and fourteen, who registered 85%.

Secondly, the study showed that the Neo-liberal structural adjustment policies exacerbated the county's economic crisis, resulting in reduction in employment and wages, while increasing the prices of basic goods. Also the signing of the Extended Structural Adjustment facility resulted in additional workers out of employment, leading to increased numbers of vulnerable children in the Nicaraguan streets.

3.8.6 - In Brazil – (Scalon et al. 316, 1998) – examined a pioneering study set up by the National Movement of Street Children which recorded numbers of street children, and that the state juvenile courts reported that an average of three children were killed everyday in the state of Rio de Janeiro. Amnesty International estimated that 90% of the killings of children in Brazil went unpunished. The study emphasised the marginalization and extermination of street children.

3.9   Other studies examined in the report

Proceedings of the Round Table of street and orphaned children – Nyiti F and Mwewa, L. K. 1996, Report (Zambia).

Consultative Round Table meeting on Policy issues affecting orphans and vulnerable children welfare in Zambia – Lubilo, M and Sitwala, m. 1998 – Report for Department of Social Welfare (Ministry of Community Development and Social Services) PCI, Lusaka.

Strategy for the Development of USAID Programme of Assistance to HIV/AIDS Orphaned and Vulnerable Children in Zambia – Namposya – Serpell N. August 1997, Consultancy Report to PCI Zambia.

Kabwata Transit Centre, Lusaka – Miyanda, A. 1999 Programme Brochure – Children abandoned, HIV/AIDS, Temporary Shelter.

Identification of the Most Vulnerable – Milimo J. T. 1996, Study fund project – Orphans, Vulnerable, Child-Headed Households, Public Welfare – Lusaka, Livingstone, Mpika, Nyimba and Samfya.

The National Programme of Action for Children in Zambia – Government of the Republic of Zambia – Children, Orphans, street children, Widows, Community Mobilisation, Material Health, Basic Education, Food and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation.

ROOTS

"My parents had parents

Their parents had parents

And their parents had parents

Relatives were in abundance

Like the waters o f the ocean

While today I am given this name, orphan

I am looking for my roots

I don't want to live in a shelter

Or at the so-called drop-in-centres

I just want my roots"

(Community youth concern)

3.10 Summary

The Chapter lays down the main objective of the study which is to find out the role and use of communication and participatory theories and strategies by various stake holders in their quest to assist and empower the street and vulnerable children, so that they can handle their own destinies properly. Also, the chapter indicates the limitations encountered by the researcher and points out the use of various methodologies in trying to find answers to the problems.

In addition, the chapter includes the Literature Review consisting of three contributions. The Situation Analysis, the Zambia National Task Force on Education for all after the late 1990's, and the Rapid Assessment of Street Children.

The main objective of the literature reviews was to understand the situation of street and vulnerable children, so as to assess appropriate models of care in order to strengthen and improve strategies that aimed at addressing the needs of individuals, households and communities in the country.

Secondly the need to share information on the key issues, give knowledge of results of other research both in Zambia and other countries and identify information gaps, and provide focus for subsequent research.

Thirdly to examine the factors that affect the survival of street and vulnerable children and to defend their rights.

Lastly, the information acquired would be provided to Government and other stakeholders for planning and implementing of a well coordinated programme to remove children from the streets in a manner that met their needs and respected their human rights.

Towards the end of the chapter there is some comparison between Zambia and other countries which emphasises the absence of communication and participatory strategies, in the countries management of the vulnerable children's affairs.

CHAPTER 4

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

4.0 Introduction

This area of the study deals with the important concepts which are crucial in discussing the phenomena of "streetism".

These concepts will make it possible for the reader to understand why and how the problem of the street children should be handled with alacrity in order to reduce the suffering of the vulnerable children. The concepts will further bring out the need for communication among the various players, and how participation would precipitate power and control of the situations by the intended beneficiaries, who in this case are the street children, to become pro-active in the decisions pertaining to their welfare and ultimate contribution to society. Therefore, in order to understand the intricacies of streetism and bring the plight of the street and vulnerable children to the fore, this chapter will focus on the concepts of communication, participation, participatory communication for development, supplemented by the humanist development theory and the social learning perspective theory. Further on, a critique of the participation theory is introduced in order to highlight possible weaknesses of this theory and also to show the differences between the modernisation paradigms and the humanist development approaches, which give power and control to the untended beneficiaries.

The chapter also shows that it is important to involve the people at all stages of development. The top-down communication where the target adopters, in this case the street and vulnerable children are told what to do should be avoided at all cost. In the light of the above, the report examines the existence of participatory and communication practices in the FOH programmes and programmes designed by government and other stakeholders to assist the children.

4.1 Relevant Concepts
4.1.1 Communication-defined

There are many definitions of the term communication, some scholars prefer basic and simple definitions while others indulge in elaborate and complex definitions, which attempts have taken a long time and have attracted controversy, debate and criticism of some of the

definitions; Suffice to say that the study will not adjudicate on the various definitions, but will only refer to them in order to show their diversity of thought on the subject.

Communication is a vital, but illusive concept, it means different things to different people and its nature is somewhat difficult to define. Every day communication is based on a model called "SMCR". This means, Sender, Message, Channel and Receiver. It is a dyadic model, which is basically about two people interacting face to face. The source "S" sends out a message, which is designated as "M" through a channel "C" to receiver designated as "R", it is in fact a back and forth situation.

The source signifies the originator of the message or sender. The source can be a single person, group of people or an institution. The sender transmits the message, but may not be the originator. The message, which is sent, is the stimulus, which the sender transmits to the receiver. The message can be verbal, non-verbal or both. The channel is the means by which a message is transmitted from the source to the receiver by either traditional media such as the "gun shot" or "drum", or by means of modern mass media. The receiver on the other hand is the destination of a given message, while the sender "encodes" the message that is takes an idea already conceived and prepares it for transmission; the receiver "decodes" the message. That is gives the message right meaning depending on the cue, which may be verbal or non-verbal or just gestures.

Different scholars have made various contributions to the concept of communication.

Dance (1967), for example defines communication as the eliciting of a response through verbal symbols, while Stevens (1950), suggests that communication is the discriminatory response of an organism to a stimulus. Other definitions include Berelson and Steiner (1964) who view communication as transmission of information, ideas, emotions, skills etc, by use of symbols, words, pictures, figures and graphs etc. The idea of a source "S" and receiver "R" comes to the fore in miller (1966), who suggests that communication has its central interest in those behavioural situations in which a source transmits a message to a receiver with conscious intent of affecting the latter's behaviour. On the other hand, "Diffusion theorist" Everett Rogers (1997), defines communication as the process by which participants create and share information with one another in order to reach a mutual understanding. Another fairly recent definition is in Rancer et al, (1997:8) where it is stated that communication occurs when humans manipulate symbols to stimulate meaning in other humans. Kasoma F. (1994),

on the other hand suggests that communication is the sharing of the human life experiences and the environment between persons.

4.1.2 Role and extent of communication

Communication is a fundamental social process, which is deeply integrated into society, and when we study it, we study people and societies (Schramm, 1967). Communication answers the same needs in all societies, Pre-industrial and modern ones. Peck (1964) notes that when some great event threatens society for example it arouses a storm of communication, just as when a society is making an important public decision, like electing a president, the communication channels overflow.

Infante et al, (1997) elaborate a number of contexts within which communication occurs, which are infact different levels of communication. These are:-

Inter personal – communication between two people

Small group – communication involving several people

Organisational – communication within and between organisations

Public – a speaker addressing a large audience

Mass – communication which is mediated by electronic or print media

Intercultural – communication between people of different cultures

Family – communication between family members

Health – communication involving health care providers and health care receivers

Political – communication involving the governing part of society

4.2 Description of Communication Levels

These levels of communication can be described as follows:-

4.2.1 Inter Personal Communication

In this form of communication one person communicates with another, on a one to one basis. It is a very effective way of communication, which enables the sender, and the receiver of the message to interact and get clarification on matters being discussed. It is also easier to see the other person's facial expressions and body language. The feedback here is excellent, and decisions are made instantly, at the spur of the moment.

4.2.2 Small group communication

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This may be a small gathering of people, meeting or having a discussion. The feedback is immediate between the members of the group and clarification can be sought on unclear issues.

4.2.3 Organisational communication

This takes place within and between organisations. For instance, where a Director of a company sends instructions to his subordinates through memoranda, telephone, by intercommunication radio systems or where one organisation communicates with another over a business deal or order of goods and services. Feedback here may not be instant.

4.2.4 Public Communication

This is where a speaker addresses people. The mode of communication here may be effective, depending on the style and clarity of the speaker, but feedback is limited. Since the individual members being addressed may not respond to the contents of the Speech. Adler and Rodman (2002:6) state that;

> One characteristic of public communication is unequal amount of speaking. One or more people are likely to deliver their remarks to the remaining members, who act as an audience. This leads to a second characteristic of public settings, with limited verbal feedback. The audience members aren't able to talk back in a two-way conversation the way they might in a dyadic or small group setting (Adler and Rodman 2000:6)

4.2.5 Mass Communication

This is the kind of communication where you have a mass media organisation disseminating information to the public. Examples of mass media are Electronic and Print media, such as television, radio, the newspaper, and the Internet. It is the quickest form of communication when one wants to reach as many people as possible in a very short time. It can be effective but has the disadvantage of being impersonal and less persuasive.

4.2.6 Inter Cultural Communication

This occurs between people of different cultures. In order to appreciate the importance of communication in cultural and intercultural aspects of human activities, we have to understand what culture is. Culture has been defined as

> A learned, socially transmitted heritage of artefacts, knowledge, beliefs, values and normative expectations that provide members of a particular society with tools for coping (McGee

1975). But more importantly, culture is the transmission of change, creativity and the reawakening of innovative opportunities. (UNESCO 2nd ed, 1996:67)

Culture is in fact the silent director of all our actions, behaviours and thoughts. Our culture and the way we define our world are inseparable. Therefore, our cultures should be studied carefully and used as tools to analyse and improve lives of street children. (Mulenga M. Kapwepwe 201:1)

4.2.7 Family Communication

This is communication between family members in their efforts to transact daily business and appreciate each member's contribution towards their well-being.

4.2.8 Health Communication

This involves health care providers, doctors and nurses and health care receivers or patients. It is an important aspect of communication, since poor handling of this communication, may negatively affect the health of a patient and lead to death. Feedback here may be measured in terms of the patients' responses to doctor's orders and treatment.

4.2.9 Political Communication

This involves the governing part of society, information from politicians to the cadres of their parties and government political pronouncements directed to the general public.

4.2.10   Intra-Personal Communication

The contextual list is not conclusive, since others can still be cited like Mwiya (2000) gives an example of **Intra Personal** communication, which is communication with or within oneself. This type can be a thought process, as well as physical, like writing down something in ones diary or memo – book. It may also take the form of thinking, dreaming or Soliloquy.

These different levels of communication can be combined in many ways to suit various circumstances in order to produce the desired results. The various combinations and permutations present a variety of communication choices to reach particular audiences and can be used to reinforce communication areas that need clarification.

In communication studies other scholars refer to channels or media of communication. A communication channel is "the means by which messages get from one individual to another" (Rogers. 1995:19) in discussing communication media, Rogers (1995) also refers to mass media channels, which are a triadic mode of communication, involving more players who communicate for a purpose. These are, all those means of transmitting messages that involve a mass medium such as television, radio, newspapers, marketing, and visual arts. The various contexts and channels of communication cited above are all relevant to the study of the street children.

4.3 Participation-defined

Participation is an honourable term in development, practice and literature. It has many definitions. Basically it means taking part or a mutual, interactive, collective and negotiated approach to problem identification and solution. In this sense participation recognises and validates the knowledge, ability and experiences of all parties concerned. What is important here, are the issues that necessitate participation.

Participation, both as a concept and practice, is widely confused, open to abuse, manipulation, ambiguous and very widely known to have failed and yet it is very important and still seen as a means to effect human development. At the core of participation and all its misunderstandings are the issues of **POWER** and **CONTROL**. What seems important in assessing development in participation development is not a factor of participation, but who decides the content of development. Who decides the scale of development, level of development as well as terms of development. In addition, it is also an issue as to who controls the framework within which the planned participatory development is to take place.

4.3.1 Power and Control

Power and control are the basis of effective participation. The people who hold the power and control things determine the success of participation. If people in authority or sponsors of development programmes do not allow people to fully participate in programmes then there will be no meaningful and sustainable development. Participation by the people should not be imposed from above by the people in authority as Servaes et al, (1996) puts it;

> "Genuine participation directly addresses power and its distribution in society. It involves the more equitable sharing of both political and economic power, which often decreases the advantage of certain groups. Structural change involves the distribution of power". Servaes et al 1996:16)

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Effective participation embraces freedom to make choices. The freedom to make choices opens up the peoples' minds in the various challenges in their efforts to change the status quo and develop into something better. For example, intimidation of participants will lead to poor commitment and less productivity in developmental programmes.

4.3.2 The role of awareness in participation

For people to take part effectively in matters concerning their livelihood, they should know their rights and what they want to do in life in order to develop. The realisation of people's goals and objectives leads to working together for the common good and is necessary for achieving genuine participation. As Freire (1985) puts it, awareness or

> "Conscientisation is the process in which men, not as recipients, but as knowing subjects achieve a deepening awareness both of the socio-cultural reality that shapes their lives and of their capacity to transform their reality". (Freire, 1985:93)

This means that awareness by the people of their concerns sharpens their understanding of problems and makes it possible for them to maximise their potentialities in the pursuit of their various endeavours and objectives.

4.3.3 Pseudo Participation

This usually occurs when a benefactor persuades people or intended beneficiaries to accept a decision to take part for example in a development programme without consulting them. In this case the people are manipulated and may further be persuaded by gifts designed to obtain agreement from them.

This form of participation is ineffective and does not last, the results are often unsustainable. Therefore, change agents should always seek genuine participation from their target audiences in order to achieve their intended objectives of successful programmes and satisfied beneficiaries in development work.

4.3.4 Citizens Participation

In this case study, the street and other vulnerable children found at the FOH centre, are legitimate citizens of this country and they have a right to participate in the affairs of this country, especially those impinging on their lives. According to the Collins New School Dictionary, 2nd edition, reprint 2004 "Citizens of a country are the people who live in it or belong to it".

Research in participatory approaches in endeavours to sort out peoples' problems have not always been successful, mainly because of centralised control and restricted participation. That is, people are directed by the top. Secondly, there is usually lack of consensus as well as cooperation among the participants. Failure of participatory approaches may also be due to relations with external agencies who tend to take total control of the processes instead of facilitating. Consequently, this allows little or no input from the community. Such facilitation fails to serve the purpose of easing the development process. As development scholar Michael Edwards 1989, Page 129, observes such facilitation, "only serves as a mechanism to serve the purpose of outsiders who have their own agenda" In this respect, the real needs of the community will be missed.

This kind of participation is something like telling people to "eat nutritious foods when they are not locally available; or to bring children to under five clinics which are inaccessible due to physical or social distance. (social distance here means for example women being embarrassed to attend under five clinics, as they do not wish their undernourished children compared with the better ones); or to tell people to grow certain crops without factors of production which make this possible". (Emmanuel Kasongo – Participatory approaches in Luapula Province, page 130)

According to the typology of participation, what is required in all participatory approaches is ensuring real participation of communities in their development processes. This entails encouraging spontaneous participation as well as self – origination of development ideas.

4.3.5 Real Participation

Real participation ensures that development efforts are directed at what the communities perceive as real needs. This would require solicited facilitation. For example, provision of money or material resources for development programmes. In this case, solicited participation will not only lead to sustainable solutions, but also meaningful community participation in development. As Norman Miller (1972 page 425) asserts,

> "Meaningful participation should be that which brings grassroots improvement, such participation requires to begin at the grassroots level".

Unfortunately, this has not often been the case, because as Anisur Rahman states,

> "Participation has been defined and carried out by the educated elites; within the limits of their perceptions; under such situations it is doubtful whether the people really participate".
>
> (Anisur Rahman 1993 page 32)

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It would appear as Theodore Thomas points out that,

> "There is a serious deficiency in or a complete lack of the implementation strategy for real participatory approaches".

Therefore, participatory approaches require practical ideas and policies that would ensure that communities really participate in their development. This would call for relocating decision making in the intended beneficiaries and approaching the needy as people who know their problems. In order to achieve this and to avoid imposing "falsely" perceived problems, experts of development need to know the several types and degrees of citizen participation.

This in turn minimises token participation's attendant problems like community resentment and non – participation.

The various forms of citizen participation are categorised as, non-participation, token and real participation and are illustrated in the table below, which shows the "eight rungs on the ladder of citizen participation.

Figure 2. – Ladder of citizen Participation

8. Citizen Control
7. Delegated Power   Real Participation
6. Partnership

5. Placation
4. Consultation
                     Token Participation

3. Informing

2. Therapy
                     Non Participation
1. Manipulation
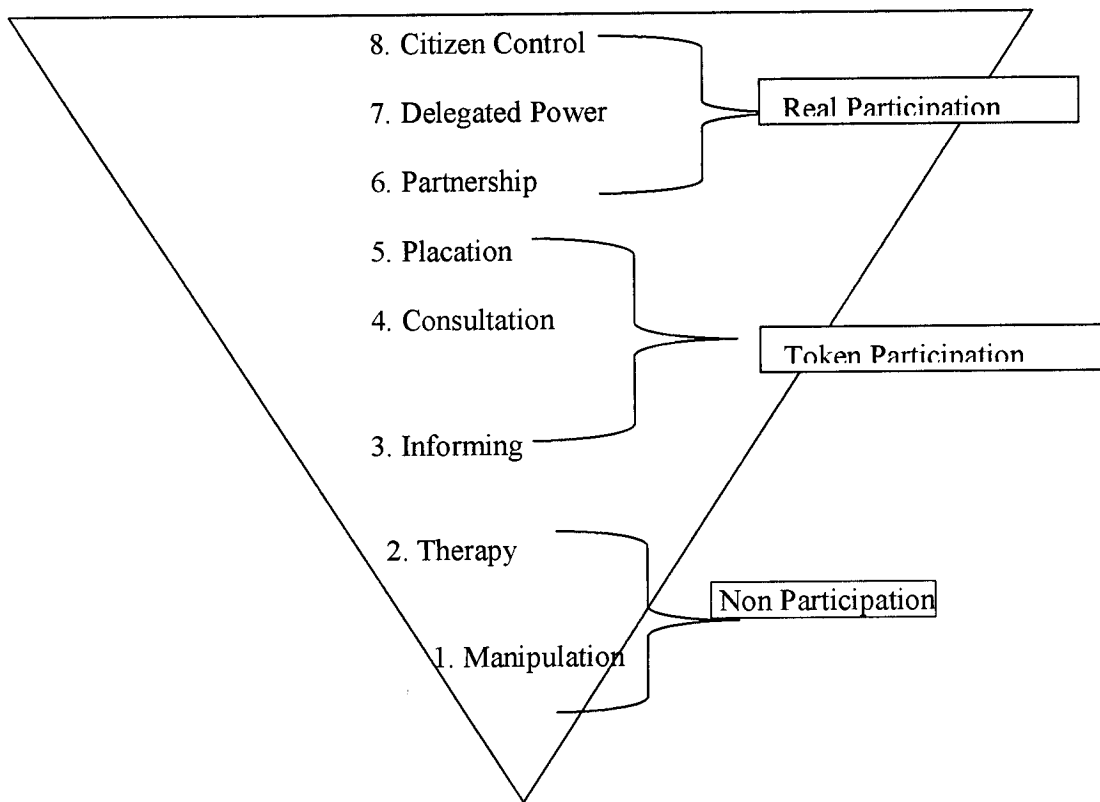
Source: Unreferenced Town Planning Journal 1969.

As will be illustrated later in this study, the degree of participation by the street and vulnerable children in their development will fall in the non-participation and token participation categories.

Therefore, if participation is to be effective and beneficial to the participants, it should embrace the fundamental principles or philosophies of participation. These are: -

1. Inclusion: of all the people or representatives of all groups who will be affected by the results of a decision or process.
2. Equal partnership: recognising that every person has skill, ability and initiative and has equal rights to participate in the process regardless of their status.
3. Transparency: all participants must help to create a climate conducive to open communication and building dialogue
4. Sharing power: authority and power must be balanced evenly between all stakeholders to avoid domination of one party
5. Sharing responsibilities: all stakeholders have equal responsibilities for decisions that are made, and each should have clear responsibilities within each process.
6. Empowerment: to learn to acquire some skills abilities and capacity building through sharing experiences and learning new skills.
7. Co-operation: sharing everybody's strength reduces everybody's weakness or load
8. Control: of all aspects of the operations
9. Accountability: to be responsible for actions taken and decisions made.

4.3.6 Effective Participation

Effective participation therefore is underlain by the quest of empowering the intended beneficiaries. Basically, empowerment means enabling people to do something or acquire the capacity to significantly control their lives, through increased abilities for decision making.

Participation is an important element in human development, because it puts the

responsibility for development into the hands of the intended beneficiaries and facilitation into the hands of the experts and the benefactors. In the context of this study therefore, the street children should be allowed to participate fully in efforts designed to improve their well being. Participation allows people to be empowered and have a say in their own affairs, and gives them a sense of being in charge of their own destiny. When the voiceless or the underprivileged, in this case the street children and vulnerable members of the community are allowed to participate, they will give their opinion in programmes which concern them. They will share their problems and their experiences and take charge of their communities' autonomy.

When people use their collective strength they will achieve more than when they want to work individually. Unity of purpose is what empowers people, and this only comes about if people genuinely participate in the development process.

Servaes et al 1996 observed that:-

"Participation leads to empowerment. Proof of empowerment comes from exercising collective strength. Effective deployment of collective strength opens the door for self determination. (Servaes et al 1996: page 211)

The contextualization of development through communication is important for it makes development messages speak to the intended audiences and beneficiaries. It is widely acknowledged that participatory development communication provides the most suitable means for such development. This is because participatory communication emphasises the use of "oral media" which have the potential of mediating participatory and contextually meaningful development. This is done through face to face, drama, folklore and story telling which provides immediate feedback.

Tomaselli and Mike Aldridge state that "oral media' allows for interpersonal and local media forms and styles characterised by culturally defined ways of making sense, "oral media" allows everybody in the community to have access to communication and therefore allow every one to participate in making and implementing development decisions. The importance of "oral media" and the participatory communication they foster lies in the fact that:-

"knowledge is only useful if the listener needs the knowledge, understands it, wants to use it, can use it, and is not prevented by any circumstances from using it. It is only useful when the knowledge is relevant to the problem in question". (C. Klouda 1988)

The FOH establishment has used "oral media" very effectively through drama organised by the street children to sensitize other street children and the community about the causes of streetism and the disastrous effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

As stated by Julius K. Nyerere 1973,

> "People cannot be developed. They can only develop themselves for when it is possible for an outsider to build a mans house, an outsider cannot give a man pride and self confidence in himself as a human-being. These things a man has to create himself by his own action. He develops himself by making his own decision, by increasing his understanding of what he is doing and why, and by increasing his own knowledge and ability and by his own full participation in the life of the community he lives in".

"Oral media" encourages dialogue and fosters a vitally important view of the cosmos, which has implanted basic behaviour and behavioural patterns in the audience. Development scholars have come to realise that "oral media" possesses communication channels that can serve as means to stimulate communication for development. These channels are local idioms which are people based. Other scholars have defined "oral media" as "communication systems embedded in the culture that existed before the arrival of the mass media and still exists as a vital mode of communication in many parts of the world, presenting a certain degree of continuity despite change. These systems are living expressions of the life styles and culture of the people evolved through the years. (Wang, Disanayake, Ramganathan, 1984, Subaltern Studies – Critique of the West)

4.4 Critique of the Participation Theory.

While the concept of participation appears plausible in developmental work, it has been criticised for various alleged weaknesses by some scholars as indicated in the following critique:-

4.4.1 Lee Xuanyeu – Former Prime Minister of Singapore. According to him "what a country needs in order to develop is **DISCIPLINE** and not participation. The excitement of democracy and participation leads to indiscipline and disorderly conduct, which are inimical to development".

4.4.2 Adrian Leftwich – argues that "If the primary development objective is to defeat poverty and misery, then participation may not be what the third world countries need or can sustain in their present condition". Participation is seen as a luxury, which sometimes provides justification for people from outside to impose their will.

4.4.3 Piere Landell – Mills – contends that "participation will not necessarily lead to economic growth or alleviation of poverty or protection of the weak or efficient governance". That is let development be the prerogative of the experts. That if many people take part, development may not be guaranteed.

4.4.4 Samuel Huntington – argues that, "participation may smother the political system with excessive demands; resulting from a tide of rising expectations and ultimately undermine the capacity to process those demands".

4.4.5 The researcher disagrees with the postulations of the above critique which are based on the modernisation paradigm, because:

1. while discipline is important in an organised society, discipline alone cannot bring about development

2. Participation by the people is not a luxury, but an essential element for development initiatives which must be based on the thorough understanding of culture and context of the intended beneficiaries.

3. While experts and funding are needed in development programmes, only organisational capabilities of the people can yield great impact. Infact development agents like UNDP and UNICEF now realise that conceptually development is not a linear process moving in a straight line and on a normative level, that development does not mean the same thing for all the people, but that development should be based from below rather than from above.

4. That participation does not lead to excessive demands by the people, but gives them power and control of their destinies and through shared experiences, knowledge and capabilities they identify their problems, find solutions and develop their world. This leads to development of the people by the people for the people.

4.5 Humanist Development Theory

4.5.1 This theory calls for practicing development as if people mattered and giving development a human face. It shows how purpose, mutual agreement, trust, commitment and legitimacy fosters participation. Also, it shows how social organisations provide the opportunity for achievements, betterment as well as survival through sharing and participation. The underlying assumptions in the Humanist Theory are:-

> Those Human beings are potential agents for their change. Those human beings are capable of acquiring and sharing their capacities. Those human beings are capable of naming their world, (Paulo & Freire, 1985) means identifying their problems. In this concept, Freire a

committed revolutionary humanist asserted that people were capable of unveiling complex and hidden roots of oppression and social problems using their everyday language.

Also those human beings are capable of theorising their problems and causes. That is finding solutions to their problems. (ROBERT HUESCA).

In the light of the above postulation, this study pursues the thought that the street children should be actively involved in the search for answers to their problems. As intended beneficiaries, they should be empowered. That is enabling them to acquire the capacity to control their lives through increased abilities for decision-making; while leaving the facilitation of the process to the experts and benefactors. That people find solutions to problems they encounter through direct participation in a long process of trial and error. In this process, people acquire, and validate the knowledge, ability and experiences of all parties. To the beneficiaries, who in this case are street children, the main concern is power and control of their own affairs.

4.5.2 As the Mexican proverb says, "Hacimos el camino caminadda"; meaning that we make the path by walking it, which is interpreted that, people find solutions to problems they encounter through direct participation in a long process of trial and error. In this process, people acquire, maintain and improve upon their skills and capabilities to solve the social problems they face. As President Mao tse – Tung of China once said, it is better to teach people how to fish, rather than giving them fish to eat.

The study envisages that if the street children are allowed to participate in finding solutions to their problems, the solutions found would be effective and the accruing development would be appropriate and sustainable. The study initiates the theory as a tool for the street children to use in solving their problems. The limitation would be with time, since the theory is assumed to produce better results when applied over a long period.

4.6   Participatory Communication for development Theory

4.6.1 Participatory Communication for Development is "a social process in which communities with common interest or problems jointly designed messages aimed at improving the social existential conditions (Bellamody)". Participatory communication process, techniques and media, to raise people's awareness of their own situation and the

options they have at their disposal for collective action for social change. It also implies helping to resolve social conflicts and working together to reach a consensus. Participatory Communication for Development assists people in planning activities involving change and sustainable development; so that they are aware of the knowledge and requirements for improving their living conditions as well as the effectiveness of their governments. It is in this context that participatory communication for development takes a multimedia approach in making a combined use of communication channels and means. Such media are widely accessed and allow broad participation in decision-making.

4.6.2   Where mass media are used, (Television, Radio or Newspapers), they must provide for feedback, so that there could be community inputs in both development messages and programming. This understanding draws from the fact that effective solutions to community problems require a complete understanding of the needs facing communities. This fact in the theory is best captured by the former World Bank President Robert McNamara (1973) who said that:

> "No programme will help small farmers if it is designed by those who have no knowledge of their problems and operate by those who have no interest in their future."

This therefore requires contextualising development through communication as Wilbur Schramm (1964) rightly observes.

> "Only when communication builds itself into the social structure of the community is any development project going to show any real hope of extensive results"
>
> (Robert MacNamara quoted in S. Melkote 1991: Communication for Development in the Third World; Theory and practice. New Delhi: page 177)

4.6.3 The Importance of the Concept of Participatory Communication for Development

This concept is of vital importance in connection with the efforts by various stakeholders and the street children themselves in trying to understand and find solutions to the intricacies of streetism. It entails that both the experts and development workers, who at the FOH would be the staff, Government officials, other stakeholders on one hand and the street and vulnerable children and members of the community who are the target adopters in the communication process, should work together in combating streetism. The street children and the community should not just be told what to do. They should be given a chance to give

their views. Therefore, both parties should be senders and receivers of the communication process.

Mutual trust, confidence and understanding results in teamwork, motivation and commitment in programmes designed to help the beneficiaries (Servaes et al, 1996:17)

Communication in this context is important for making development messages speak to the intended audiences and beneficiaries. That is, understanding messages.

4.70 Summary

In this important chapter, an attempt has been made to discuss, analyse and understand the important and relevant concepts which are the backbone of the report.

These concepts are communication, participation, participatory communication for development, supplemented by the humanist theory. These concepts will help the reader to understand the reasons why the researcher decided to investigate the plight of the street and vulnerable children at FOH in Lusaka, in relation to the policies and implementation practices of Government and other stakeholders.

CHAPTER 5

5.0 STUDIES OF STREET CHILDREN IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

5.1 Prelude:

"In their little worlds in which children have their existence, there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as justice"

(Charles Dickens – "Great Expectations")

5.2 Introduction

The idea of including studies of street children from selected countries in this report is significant because it provides a comparison between Zambia and those countries in relation to streetism and various attempts made by the countries concerned to find solutions to this problem

Secondly the Researcher wanted to find out the existence of communication and participatory strategies used by the various governments and other stakeholders in the selected countries, designed to empower the street and vulnerable children.

This approach it is hoped, would also enrich the reader's understanding and appreciation of Zambia's attempts to help the disadvantaged members of the community and perhaps contribute in finding solutions to the huge problem of streetism in Zambia.

5.3 Their number

According to UNICEF estimates, one hundred million children live and work on the streets of the cities of the world. The majority of them are in developing countries: forty million in Latin America twenty five to thirty million in Asia and ten million in Africa. Street children are mainly boys, but the number of girls is also increasing. With the increasing poverty and human strife in the world, the cited figures are probably out of date.

5.4 Origin of the term street children.

The term "street children" was first used by Henry Mayhew in 1851 when writing- *London Labour and the London Poor*. It came into general use only after the United Nations year of

the child in 1979. Before, the street children were referred to as homeless, abandoned, or runaways.

5.5 Why they are on the street

The street children are on the street because of various political economic and social factors such as land reforms, population growth, rural to urban migration, unemployment, war, poverty, natural disasters, family disintegration, HIV/AIDS and violence. These are the main reasons why the children live and work on the streets. Different countries and communities in the world are prejudiced against street children and have coined various names referring to these children which are derogatory and align children with crime, gangsterism, theft, bad behaviour, filth and as outcasts. However, the conditions under which the vulnerable children live are actually created by their parents and other adults. (Royal Tropical Institute KIT newsletter – http:www.kit.nl/frameset.asp/specials/htmlscstreetchildren)

They are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and have little opportunity to claim their rights. For example, as a form of verbal abuse, these children are called by various derogatory names such as:

Strollers, malunde, malalapipe (those who sleep in pipes) skadukinders (children of the shadows) – South Africa

Carnadas (gangs), galladas (street gangs), chamacos – Mexico

Cabritos - Chile

Mutibumba (those who sleep under trees), Monga (guardian to a group of street boys). – Zimbabwe

Buoi doi (dust of life or dust children) – Vietnam

Gamines (urchins), Chinches (bed bugs) – Colombia

Marginais (criminals or marginals) – Brazil

Pajaros fruteros (fruit birds) – Peru

Saligoman (Nasty kids) – Rwanda

Mosquitoes – Cameroon

Kawo (cowboys), and busenge (little wolves) – Uganda

Phaseurs – Kinshasa, Congo.

However, the street children in Zambia have not been given any derogatory names, maybe because their presence has not sufficiently impacted on the people

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5.6 How they are being helped and by whom

Approaches to improve the situation of street children and sometimes also that of their families, range from the provision of basic services such as shelter, food, clothing and healthcare, through education and vocational training to empowering the children, through legal aid and other human rights - based interventions.

NGO's including religious organizations are practically the only organizations that are trying to reach and help these children. However, these organizations, restricted by their financial resources are generally able to offer only curative help. Many governments continue to respond with oppression and institutionalization, although a few have set up special policies or departments to deal with street children. What is needed is political commitment to improve their plight. For example, by ensuring the protection of their rights, and giving them power and control of their destiny through effective communication and participation in matters pertaining to their lives.

5.7 International instruments and action

An important tool which legally assists governments in the effort to improve the situation of street children and other vulnerable children is "The Convention on the Rights of the Child".

5.8 Street children in Latin America

5.8.1 Research in Latin America has shown 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. The street children as indicated earlier are seen by many as worthless, and many countries have used violent and punitive measures to remove them.

In Latin America published research focuses mainly on family breakdown, and have established that compared with home based children, street based children are less likely to come from a home headed by their father, are less likely to have access to running water or

toilet facilities. Their parents are likely to be unemployed, illiterate, less cooperative, and less mutually caring with higher levels of violence.

Brazil which has the highest number of street children in Latin America has one of the most unequal distributions of wealth in the world. The top twenty percent of the population receive twenty six times the income of the bottom twenty percent and half the population survive on fourteen percent of the national income.

5.8.2 The Research has further established that: the definition of street children varies, and the Research distinguishes two main groups: Home based, who usually return home at night and street based who remain on the streets and have no family support. (UNICEF)
Children in both of the above categories have much in common, unstable emotional relationships with the adult world, negative self image, social stigma, violence, exploitation and uncertain futures.

5.8.3 The majority of children are born into families and should have no reason to question the role the family will play for the rest of their lives. The family is a source of security and protection. That is moral, emotional, physical, mental and social. Increasingly, and for a variety of different reasons children all over the world are being faced with the fear of loosing their family.

5.9 Problems faced by street children

5.9.1 Little information exists on the general physical health of the street children. Trauma and certain infectious diseases are more common among children on the street than those based at home.

5.9.2 Studies have confirmed that around eighty percent of street children use drugs regularly. Traditionally this has been glue which is readily available and a cheap way of coping with hunger, fear, loneliness, despondency, and as a way of unifying the street children together.

5.9.3 As regards sexual health, street children are sexually active early in life. To obtain money, food, clothing and shelter they may engage in "survival sex with adults." Among themselves sex is used for pleasure, comfort as well as to exert power and establish dominance sometimes in ritualized gang rape.

5.9.4 Teenage pregnancy is almost universal among street girls and over twenty five percent of them report one or more abortions procured illegally, usually with over the counter "arbotifacients."
An outreach programme in Honduras reported that "eighty five percent of sexually active street children had been treated for a sexually transmitted disease. HIV infections were reported in six percent of street children, syphilis in three percent and "Hepatitis B surface antigen in two percent." (Scalon et al – 1998)

6. Social circumstances

6.1 Like in Zambia, in Latin America, street children establish themselves on the street early. Most do intermittent casual work such as hawking goods, cleaning and guarding cars, market work, begging, stealing and prostitution. Some form gangs with hierarchical structures loosely based on the family. Others form groups which are less stable with more diffusely defined roles and territories which are more adaptable to the problems street life brings.

6.2   "A Honduran outreach programme found that half of street children had been arrested and forty percent imprisoned. Sao Paulo Court figures showed that the number of arrests of street children was increasing. Despite the popular assumption that street children are all thieves, little evidence existed about illegal activity." (Scalon et al. 316(7144):1596-BMJ. 1998)

7. Marginalisation and extermination

In Brazil, "A pioneering study set up by the national movement of street children   recorded 457 murders of street children between March and August 1989. The state juvenile court recently reported that an average of three children are killed every day in the state of Rio de Janeiro. On 23 July 1993, a vigilante group openly fired on a group of fifty street children sleeping in the Candalaria district of Rio de Janeiro. Several children and one adult were killed and many injured. Amnesty International has estimated that ninety percent of the killing of children in Brazil go unpunished."
(Scalon et al. 316(7144):1596-BMJ. 1998)

8.0 Efforts to help street children in Brazil

8.1 Governments previously sought to discipline street children by imprisoning them. In the 1960's the emphasis changed from a correctional approach to one of offering help. However, institutions and their staff remained the same and the so called "assistance" and repression became intertwined.

In the late 1980's the combination of the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child, greater democracy and pressure from non governmental organizations led some governments to introduce more enlightened legislation. In 1990 a new article based on the United Nations Convention became law in Brazil. The article detailed the rights to free movement and free education up to the age of eight years.

8.2 Non Governmental organizations argued that with sufficient support street children could be "rehabilitated" as exemplified by the *Bosconia Project*. This project with four stages aimed at creating a new person through work and teaching values. The four states of the Bosconia project included the following:

8.3 "An open access walk in centre, where children could wash, play, have a meal, meet other children and talk to project workers.

8.4 A residential programme. This entailed classroom work, recreational activities, group discussions and work activities. Counsellors emphasized detoxification, motivation, and the elimination of street ethics.

8.5 Full time school education and specific vocation skills. This consisted of work skills such as market gardening and making small items for sale.

8.6 A self governing community. Here, support, disciplinary problems and sanctions were dealt with by peers.

Researchers criticized some rehabilitation programmes for "batch processing", being paternalistic and emphasizing children's passivity. The programmes also failed to engage more established street children. In the 1980's therefore, many NGO's in Brazil set up outreach programmes which were sometimes entirely street based, providing food and medical support, and more rarely, educational, psychological and legal support. Other ideas represented more individualized rehabilitative programmes which aimed to integrate the child back into the family. The *Puebla Programme* in Mexico "estimated that sixty seven percent of children contacted would remain with the family after one year. This process however, required ongoing support, whose cost of returning a child home was estimated at four hundred and sixty pounds (British Pounds)."

Other non governmental initiatives were aimed at preventing children from going onto the street and involved building houses, sewage systems, community centres, nurseries and introducing work skills into schools curricula."

(Scalon et al. 316(7144):1596-BMJ. 1998)

Some of the programmes established in Brazil are similar to those created for the street children in Zambia. The major difference is that the Brazilian programmes are better funded than the Zambian ones.

9. The Plight of Guatemalan street children

9.1 "Casa Alianza a non profit organisation which enlisted street children in rehabilitation services since 1981, reported that in seven years only fourteen (14) cases were resolved by the Guatemalan judicial system.

The justice system was against street children, and took a long time to investigate their complaints. As a result of this the Guatemalan's resorted to physical violence against street children. For example forty one (41) individuals either beat up or murdered Guatemalan abandoned street children in 1997."

9.2 Casa Alianza therefore established a Legal Aid office in 1990 after a murder of a thirteen (13) year old boy Nahamon Carmona Lopez by four uniformed policemen (Casa Alianza 30 January 1998)

10.0 Nicaragua's Street Children

10.1 In 1995 a study by the Institute for Human Development revealed that there were 15,000 street children in Managua. Nationally there were 17,000 street children who were

divided into four groups: - war orphans, children from broken homes, abandoned children and the glue sniffers.

These children scavenged for food in the Managua markets, shining shoes, cleaning windscreens, selling anything from candy to their bodies, while some begged or stole. The street children used cheap drugs to take away the pain of poverty and rejection. The children inhaled glue fumes, which produces hallucinations which numb their hunger and fears, but long term use of these drugs causes irreversible brain damage, paralysis, kidney or liver failure and eventually death.

(Adrean Scheid – Meso America January 1995 "Caught In The Crossfire")

10.2 The main cause of streetism in Nicaragua is poverty. In a study by the Ministry of Social Action, funded by the UN's children fund (UNICEF) it was revealed that

"75% of all Nicaraguan households registered poverty levels incomes. The hardest hit were the children. The under five year olds reached 86% and for those between six (6) and fourteen (14) years old the percentage of poverty levels was 85%"

"Neo-liberal Structural Adjustment policies exacerbated the country's economic crisis, resulting in a reduction in employment and wages while increasing the price of the basic goods. The national unemployment levels reached 60-70%. The signing of the Extended Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) with international lending organisations resulted in additional 13,000 workers out of employment. Secondly, the social protection for children provided under the Sandinista Administration were scrapped by the Chamorro government, resulting in increased poverty for the children."

This parallels with the Structural Adjustment Programme in Zambia whose measures resulted in increased unemployment levels with consequences of families unable to support the members of their families leading to the flow of children into the streets for survival reasons.

11.0 Self motivation by street children

This consisted of contributions of street children themselves. Established in 1984, the Brazilian National Movement of Street Children played an important part in securing new legislation. As a result, there were seventy five local groups with a total membership of three thousand voluntary educators working in about four hundred projects.

12.0 The escalation of killing of street children in Brazil

In spite of Brazil embracing the UN charter on the rights of the children, the killings of the street children continued. This is because killing of street children is a profitable pass time in Brazil.

> "The cycle of impunity means not only neglect or omission, but a rather profitable corrupt scheme within public security and law enforcement agencies......"
>
> Tania de Almeida, Head judge of Duque de Caxias Court, explained that the powerful elite in Rio pay private security agencies to provide for its safety. These agencies are headed by police officers or chiefs of the military police, rank and file police officers, unable to live on their salaries, often moonlight quite commonly for the security agencies, using the "cycle of impunity" by "cleaning up" the streets for dissatisfied merchants. That is eliminating the children of the poor, perceived as one of the source of Rios modern day problem." Clearly, there is a perceived benefit to killing destitute children, not only to those who directly profit from it, that is the hit-man but also the people who pay the professional killers to clean up the streets. The benefit of children-free streets can be very expensive since the killers need protection at judicial level. This is where corruption comes into play. Money and political power are the most common means of undermining the law in Brazil. Ultimately The Children and the Adolescent Act (ECA) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the child became dead letters. Despite well-voiced national and international outrage, murder the most violent abuse against children continues to go unpunished by the government.
>
> According to Amnesty International, ninety percent of the killings of impoverished Brazilian children and adolescents who are mostly of African descent have never been resolved because of the infamous cycle of impunity."

(STREET CHILDREN. Latin America and the Caribbean-International child resource institute (ICRI) - 24th April 1995 – by Caius Brandao – ICRI Brazil, Project Coordinator) (http://pangea.org/street-children/latin/brazil.htm)

13.0 Statistics of street children in Latin America

It is estimated that throughout Latin America there are over forty million children, aged between three and eighteen, living and working on the streets. Seventy five percent of these children work to supplement the family income where parents earn well below the living wage. They beg, sell trinkets, shine shoes and wash cars to bridge the gap between

impossible poverty and survival. Due to this burden these children rarely continue their education beyond the age of nine.

14.0 Root causes of streetism in Latin America

14.1 Massive rural depopulation and urbanization. This is due to the expropriation of resource rich land for western consumption and the ongoing violent intimidation from governments, the trend of migration from the country side to the cities occurs, as farmers and their families were forced to search for a better life.

14.2 In Latin America mineral rich land and fertile agricultural land was sold from under rural populations to foreign co-operations, to benefit the elitist governing minorities. The impoverished farmers sought alternative work in cities. Others called for land reform, challenging the foreign ownership to their land and working conditions resulting in violent retaliation from the authorities, leading to government massacres of street children supported by the help of the US military aid.

14.3 Cities are overcrowded, leading to lack of employment and housing. Poverty is exacerbated and all the family members including children are forced to look for work in order to supplement the family's income

14.4 Children who flee from home or lose contact with the parental base often take younger siblings to the streets with them. Unfortunately these same children fall prey to sexual exploitation on the street. The children form tight knit communities, which provide emotional comfort, sharing of street spoils and security.

15.0 Latin American poverty

15.1 The Western consumer life is mainly dependant on the availability of cheap natural resources and readily exploited labour. This set up is like the logic behind the African slave trade.

15.2 "US foreign policy serves to further the expansion of its own economy and maintain its position. As the worlds only super power. The by-product is a climate of inequality, including the impoverishment of much of Latin America. To gain monopoly over the continents natural

resources, markets and labour forces, the US Government props corrupt regimes that ultimately serve the interest of the elite ruling minority at the expense of the poor masses. Demands for political participation and reform are typically violently quashed by elitist regimes with US supplied arms and military training."

15.3 The violent exploitation of the third world is not confined to the US. The European Union, Britain in Particular has played a direct role in inhibiting the development of many African and Asian countries. The Phenomena of Street Children is not Unique to Latin America, but rather almost wherever the west has plundered the third world, this social problem is evident.

"Colombia's Street children are considered vermin, a pest to be eradicated by the elite and the government."

In Columbia and Brazil, and other Latin American countries; a policy of "social cleansing" is practised against street children. To eradicate a perceived nuisance, street children are targeted for extreme violence and summary execution. The perpetrators are often the police or former police members, and the general public.

16.0 Street children in - Nairobi -Kenya

16.1 Nairobi has an estimated number of street children of between 15,000 and 150,000 according to Stacey Young, The parents of these children have died of AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and street accidents, or other calamities, or more frequently, neglected by parents who are no longer able to care for them.

These children "are the targets of many cruelties, both brutal and casual. These range from police raids, letters to the editors of the local newspapers advocating their detention and punishment; to sexual abuse by strangers and older or stronger street dwellers, to police sweeps; in which the children are rounded up and sent to remand homes where overcrowding, underfeeding and diseases are rampant. Although Kenya's Child Law project is seeking to bring the country's child protection legislation into line with the declaration of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the project may be fighting a losing battle. Brutality towards street children is routine; particularly on the part of the police, the very public servants charged with enforcing the Child Protection Legislation".

As an example, on August 11, 1994, "a police reservist spotted a street boy later identified as Simon (or Samuel) Kamampiu, Kamande, stealing the side indicator of a car in Ngera a Nairobi neighbourhood. The reservist shot the boy five times, killing him then kicked his body into a gutter and spat on it"

16.2 It was further reported that a Minister of Education and Secretary of KANU (Kenya's ruling political party since independence in 1963) criticised initial press reports for "blowing the issue of street children out of proportion, asserting that this is not a matter of national importance"

Kenyans were left to wonder what could be a matter of national importance if not the killing of unarmed children by the police. Furthermore, it was found that previously police had killed five unarmed street children in the same area of Nairobi. The Kenyan Government's punitive attitude towards the children goes well beyond the brutalities committed by the police,

> "Joshua Angatia, the Minister of Health told Kenyan parliament that; it is not right to let our children go wild in the street, they should be collected and put in centres where they should be made to work hard"

In Kenya like in other parts of the developing world , the problems of street children will not be stopped by brutality, abuse, or exploitation of street children but only when the basic social and economic needs are adequately addressed, and the street children are allowed to participate in matters pertaining to their destinies.

17.0 Summary

17.1 This chapter highlights many factors which contribute to streetism; the main ones being urbanisation, industrialisation, unemployment, effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, war, population growth, drought, natural disasters, the general poverty of the developing world and the lack of communication and participatory strategies which are supposed to empower the street children in order for them to recognise their problems and find sustainable solutions to the problems for themselves.

In the cited countries NGO's including faith based organisations communicate and reach out to the street children more effectively than the various governments. The governments generally lack political will to tackle the problems of the street children

CHAPTER 6

6.0 Attachment and Experiences at the Fountain of Hope Centre Institutional Profile, Operations and observations

6.1 Introduction

The Researcher recognises the fact that FOH is a small cog in the chain of various players who are trying to contribute to the well being of street and vulnerable children and their parents in the country. The question is; are they going about it in the right way? Is FOH maximising the use of effective communication and participating methodologies and practices as means to the required end? This is what the reader is about to find out in this chapter.

The Fountain of Hope was chosen for this case study mainly because of its large child population, proximity to the city, convenient location and for its easy interaction with the street children and other vulnerable children in the surrounding compounds of Kamwala, Kuku, Kabwata, Kanyama, Misisi, Chibolya, Chawama, John Laing, Jack compound and others.

6.2 Brief history

The Fountain of Hope was initiated by enthusiastic young people in 1996. These young people were inspired by the work which the Red Cross organization was doing among the orphans, street children and other vulnerable children in Lusaka. The centre was officially opened on May 24th in the same year. The first Director of this institution was appointed in 1996. Between 1996 and 2004 the institution engaged four Directors. The frequent turnover of Directors is indicative of some of the problems the centre has experienced.

6.3 Objectives

The main objective of the organization is to work hand in hand with local communities, international communities, and the Government of the Republic of Zambia in order to find solutions to the situation of street children, orphaned and vulnerable children with a view to reintegrate them into their families and provide basic education and practical life skills.

6.4 Fountain of Hope Constitution

6.4.1 In the preamble of the Fountain of Hope constitution, the concerned citizens declared that:-

" Being aware that there is a large and growing number of orphaned and abandoned children living homeless on the streets, requiring basic acceptable shelter, food, security, safety, medical care, basic education, skills training, emotional support, sports and amusement; agreed to form the Fountain of Hope Association, which shall not be partisan... That the Fountain of Hope shall exist as a service organization to provide basic acceptable drop in shelter care for orphaned and abandoned children."

6.4.2 In Line with the theme of this study, Fountain of Hope in its constitution planned to design and create programmes which would bring about effective communication and participation of street children and other vulnerable children in different social and economic activities. The intended beneficiaries were expected to interact with communities and the various stakeholders in their efforts to find solutions to their problems. As an illustration of these intended activities, the Fountain of Hope constitution further states that the organization shall:-

6.4.3 "Provide a forum for children to analyze the root causes underlying systems and situations creating or contributing to despair, despondency, poverty, disease including HIV/AIDS and STI's, illiteracy, apathy, and above all vulnerability resulting from exploitations in all forms.

6.4.4 Sensitize and conscientise communities to acknowledge and realize that children are human beings born with human dignity and endowed with the qualities which make them architects of their destiny, and posses individually and collectively ideas and resources which can be translated into empowerment and programmes freeing them from the strong hold of oppression and exploitative forces.

6.4.5 Formulate and implement sustainable poverty alleviation programmes based on viable income generation activities which provide opportunities for acquiring new entrepreneurial skills and competence; leading to self confidence and the creation of wealth that contributes to increased investment and economic growth.

6.4.6 Encourage and promote the formation of community action groups into branches of FOH to serve as basic grassroots administrative units which form the foundation stone of FOH's membership and administrative structure.

6.4.7 Collaborate and network with the Central Government and City Councils in particular, and all other international development NGO's and community based organizations sharing the same objectives with FOH Association."

6.5 The Vision of Fountain of Hope

"Is to empower street and orphaned children to become responsible
Citizens through well focused programmes and basic education, as well as practical life skills."

In order to realise its objectives the organization set up programmes which include Outreach, Education, Mother's programmes and the centre management programme.

6.5.1 Outreach Programme

This programme aims at the re-integration of street and vulnerable
Children back into their families. The process is done in many ways, the main approaches of which are:-

- Child counselling through self expression of individual and group participation.
- Skills training for children over 18 years, who are supposed to be taught skills such as carpentry and bricklaying.
- Referring of children who the institution fails to handle to other organizations.

The researcher's observations established that the Outreach Programme is not easy to pursue and accomplish the intended goals for many reasons. The institution has neither the financial nor human resources to tackle the various problems properly. For example, the teacher responsible for the Outreach Programme, in his own admission had visited six families only once since he was employed. He further gave an example that he once took a child to his home for possible re-integration, after intensive counselling but before sunset the child had come back on the street. There are myriad factors prohibiting effective child re-integration

into their families. For instance the nuclear family is usually broken up, while the extended family has become dysfunctional. The families concerned have no money or economic power to function normally.

Secondly the street for the children encompasses their active lives of play, informal education, socialization, and income generating activities. Like carrying people's merchandise, begging, and washing cars; while the meagre income earned is shared with their families. The homes for the children usually have less or nothing to offer by way of challenges or provision of love, food, clothing, and shelter.

Thirdly some of the children who are found on the streets of Lusaka are not residents, but come from rural areas, Kabwe and the Copperbelt. The distances where the vulnerable children come from make it difficult to trace their families for possible re-integration. The problem of orphaned children is further compounded by the fact that some of the living parents are usually not capable of meeting the various needs of the vulnerable children.

There may be a need for Government to pass some legislation which would prevent parents from encouraging their children to indulge in anti-social activities such as prostitution in order to earn some money to sustain such families.

Secondly, parents should be counselled and prevented from abusing their small children by sending them on income generating errands such as vending on the streets or at market places, when they should be in school.

It is important for FOH therefore, to acquire financial resources which would assist the families in need with small loans in order to generate incomes for the families' sustenance.

6.5.2 Mothers programme

This programme aims at empowering women in the community in reproductive health, the rights of the child and teaching them business skills and providing them with financial support through the micro credit facilities. Regrettably, at the moment the mothers are only involved in the simple activities of helping in cooking meals for the children and sweeping the FOH premises. The social contact between the vulnerable children and the mothers who come to the centre is minimal, although the children may look upon the women as their parents. It is important to note that the micro credit programme which happened in the past is no longer operational, because FOH has not been able to source the necessary funds for such a programme.

6.5.3 Centre programme - This involves centre matters, such as health, hygiene of

the children, feeding and sleeping facilities, sports, recreation, drama and gardening.

The sports and recreation activities were very lively. The health-care services were reasonable, except for the fact that drugs were inadequate, and the ablution block needed attention. The children were fed well although the cooking needs to be improved. The garden was non existent, because the confined space was not adequate for such activities.

6.5.4 Basic education – This involves formal teaching of a selected number of

Children from grades 1 to 7, at which point the children write the Grade Seven National Examination, which is currently the final examination for the Primary school Education programme.

6.6 FOH Community School

6.6.1 Before this research was conducted, the FOH administration through its brochure claimed that there were 700 children attending basic education and that more than 400 children had been taken back to their families through reintegration. That the mother's programme had 150 mothers of which 120 were successful, while 30 mothers performed very poorly. In the centre management there were 200 – 250 street children who spent their nights at the centre, while 300 – 400 children normally had lunch and 150 – 250 ate supper at the FOH centre.

6.6.2 When the Researcher conducted the research at the FOH community school, there were only 371 students in the basic education sector of which 166 were girls and 205 were boys. These children mainly came from families in the surrounding compounds. Out of the total of 371 children about 200 of them have breakfast and lunch at the Fountain of Hope. The number of children actually living on the street and coming to take meals at the FOH varies between 20 and 50 per day. There are 52 resident vulnerable children at the FOH, of which 7 boys are in boarding schools in various parts of the country.

6.7 Methodology of Study at Fountain of Hope

6.7.1 A non-experimental design of in-depth interviews was carried out with street children from various parts of the streets in Lusaka, who frequented places such as Soweto market; Hungry Lion take away eating place, the Main Post Office premises, the Railway station,

Lumumba road and Mumbwa Road junction. Some of the orphans and vulnerable children who attended the regular school classes from grade one to seven were also interviewed.

The third category of children who were interviewed included the children who came to play games at the FOH with other children and those who came to partake in the meals provided by the school, courtesy of the World Food Programme, who provided the rations of maize, soya meal, cooking oil and other essential cooking condiments

6.7.2 Interviews of community members, who carried out different chores like cooking for the children, and cleaning the school premises, were also done.

The administrative and teaching staff were also interviewed in order to understand the different functions they performed and the various problems encountered in their operations.

6.8 The Questionnaire

6.8.1 As indicated earlier on page 17 the questionnaire was designed with a view to examine the levels of communication and participation by the street and vulnerable children in the programmes at the FOH and the programmes designed to help the children by Government and other stake holders

In the survey, a sample of 100 interviewees was established and interviews carried out by the researcher, with the assistance of Miss Florence Mulenga, a Distance Education student from the School of Humanities at the University of Zambia. The questionnaire was pre-tested, leading to some changes in the number of questions and format.

6.9 Limitations
6.9.1 Finances and Timing

Also as previously stated, the limitations were mainly due to the lack of adequate financial resources and the recess period at FOH when the children went on a brief holiday resulting in the late commencement of the research programme

6.9.2 Documentary Search

A Documentary Search was requested by the researcher in order to understand   the intricacies of the operations at FOH, but unfortunately permission was not granted, even after having discussed with the Executive Director and the Chairman of the FOH Board. The search was designed to examine the documents such as, the Yearly Work Plan, Budgets, Strategic Plans, Annual Reports, Project Proposals, Minutes of the AGM and other meetings,

minutes of meetings with stakeholders, which included parents, churches, government, NGO's and other centres. Also records on the distribution of food, medical supplies and purchases of other requisites for the school. The refusal to open the documents for scrutiny, made it difficult for the Researcher to understand the planning and financial requirements or give any suggestions on how best to utilize the available meagre resources.

6.10 Staff Observations

Staff observations were carried out in order to determine and understand the staff interaction with other staff, with the administrative staff, with the street children and other vulnerable children and with the various community members. Also unsolicited statements and comments from all the various categories of staff and members of the community were noted.

6.10.1 There are two categories of teachers at FOH. The professionally qualified teachers Who are two in number and are seconded from the Ministry of Education. The Second category consists of untrained teachers with acceptable academic qualifications, vocational experience and interest in the work of vulnerable children.

6.10.2 The qualified teachers are paid by the Government through the Ministry of Education while the untrained teachers are paid by FOH through donations. This makes their salaries uncertain, since if donations are not forth coming the payments of their monthly salaries are automatically affected and the teachers may be reduced to the status of being mere volunteers. This state of affairs is a great disincentive to this dedicated group of workers.

6.11 Relationship of teachers with children

6.11.1 The relationship of the teachers with the children is basically good. This is much more so with the vulnerable children attending full time classes, than the children who come from the streets and have no positive allegiance to the school. These children prefer to be free from school authority and come and go at will.

6.11.2 The teachers find the reintegration of street children into families rather difficult. This is because the family members are either sick, poor or unable to sustain themselves economically, or the family ties have broken down, or due to the death of one or both of the

parents, or the parents have divorced or separated. This results in either maternal or paternal deprivation of the child's social, emotional and psychological needs.

Secondly it has been found to be difficult to reintegrate children who come from places outside Lusaka like Kabwe, Livingstone and the Copperbelt. Also the children do not always tell the truth about the whereabouts of their parents and their family status in general.

Effective communication of the teacher and the child depends on the ability of the individual teacher to communicate properly.

6.12 Academic and skills training

6.12.1 Although the numbers of children in classes are large, noisy and often disorderly, some effective learning processes appear to be achieved, since some pupils pass grade seven examinations well and are accepted in grade eight in Lusaka or schools in other Provinces.

6.12.2 As for the skills training at FOH, this used to happen in the past but is not being carried out at the moment due to lack of financial resources, equipment and trained manpower.

6.12.3 The skills training programme at FOH has now been replaced by a programme organized by Government, through the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development, whereby a selected number of vulnerable and street children are sent to the Zambia National Service camps to train in various skills such as bricklaying, carpentry and tailoring.

In this type of training there is little consultation or communication with the children concerned, as to whether they have a choice in the matter. As a result, a number of children who were taken to the ZNS camp in Katete Eastern Province of Zambia have come back with complaints that this type of training is not what they expected because it has excessive components of military discipline and control. Such children have since returned to the streets of Lusaka.

The main problem as seen by the researcher is not the loss of freedom by the street children or the lack of regular petty income which they usually acquire on the streets, but what would happen to them on completion of such training. The shrinking economy and the lack of employment opportunities in the country generally poses a problem in the rehabilitation of the street children.

Secondly, even if the children acquired the various skills or were given small loans to go into businesses, they would still encounter stiff competition from other trained and experienced artisans in society. This would make it difficult to market their skills and the products they made.

6.13 Refugee camps for Zambia's street children

6.13.1 The government of the Republic of Zambia has decided to settle some of the street children in the various refugee camps, previously occupied by refugees from Angola who are now returning to their homes because of their 2002 peace agreement.

"The first group of children will be accommodated at Maheba in the North western Province," the Minister of Sport, Youth and Child Development George Chulumanda told United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) – IRIN report 18th November 2005. "we are looking at an initial 1000 children from Lusaka before we gradually spread into the provincial centres". Chulumanda said the Government was concerned about the rising number of children on the streets as a direct result of poverty and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

"The other concern, which is not exactly new, is that these guys(street kids) are growing up and very soon will want to marry and support families, and the only way they will do that will be to turn to crime" Chulumanda pointed out. "That is why we want to make them productive before they can become destructive". He said an undisclosed number of children were already being rounded up and readied for the move to Maheba, which for decades has been home for hundreds of thousands of Angolan Refugees. However, the Government's proposal met with mixed reactions from the street children that IRIN spoke to in Lusaka.

Poverty and the impact of HIV/AIDS are sending increasing numbers of children onto the streets where they eke out a living by begging. The Government regards the population of street children as a growing menace. "our target is to completely rid the streets of the street children", Chulumanda said. "I know it sounds ambitious but it is not impossible with a little determination".

United Nations Children Fund – UNICEF, Child Protection Officer Gabriel Fernandez told IRIN that the agency supported the plan, but wanted to ensure that the children's rights would not be abused in the camps.

"We are also very interested in ensuring that the people working with the children are sufficiently trained to work with the children and have knowledge of child psychology," he commented. "Perhaps of greater concern is how the Government plans to integrate the children into society once they have completed their skills training". Fernandez said UNICEF had already visited a ZNS camp in the northern mining town of Kitwe about 380 kilometres from Lusaka and the general impression was that the children are happy to be off the streets and in an organized facility with people to take care of them.

6.13.2 The idea of resettling children in refugee camps may initially be a partial solution to the problem. In the opinion of the Researcher however, further investigations in a prototype manner should have been carried out in order to determine the suitability of the idea.

6.14 Possible consequences of the refugee camps programme

6.14.1 The children who are on the streets but return to their homes every night, or those who are intermittently separated from their families, would now be socially and psychologically uprooted. Such a move would have a negative impact on subsequent social behaviour of the children.

6.14.2 The economic benefits accruing to the families of street children who take home their daily earnings in cash or in kind would be severed instantly. This would have untold suffering on the economic condition of the families concerned.

6.14.3 Living in an isolated camp even if there are adequate social and economic benefits may bring about a sense of exclusion from the rest of society and may create a negative complex situation which may inhibit smooth reintegration of the children in the rest of society. It is important therefore for the country to continue searching for other practical and tangible alternatives to the problem of streetism.

6.15 Community Participation

6.15.1 This is one of the important pillars in the attempt to reintegrate street children in their families and society in general. The community members who have children at FOH community school have formed committees which look at the various needs of their children. In the past when the community was given financial assistance through a micro-credit system

their participation was very active. Currently the morale is low and only a few parents come to assist at the school with cooking the children's food and cleaning the surroundings. In spite of this situation as mentioned before, FOH has a mother's programme through which parents are counselled on matters of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, children's welfare, teenage pregnancies, pupil's punctuality and children's absenteeism at school, and scrutinizing the performance of both children and teachers in the community school.

6.15.2 The Role of the Churches

The churches from the community interact positively with the vulnerable and street children. They are involved in the personal development of the children by taking them to their various churches for prayers, improving their spirituality, engaging some of them in sporting activities and sponsoring others to secondary schools.

The sporting angle is also supported by organizations such as "sport in Action" that come to play games with the children at the centre. These activities are usually joined by other children from the community. Sport therefore, plays an important part in the rehabilitation of vulnerable and street children. "Mens sana incopore sano" A sound mind in a sound body.

6.15.3 Drama Group Contribution

The FOH street children have a drama group which visits various communities in Lusaka in order to sensitize the people about the impact of streetism on the children. The drama group also focuses on the negative impact of consuming alcohol and drugs, prostitution, child abuse, HIV/AIDS prevention, STI's and teenage pregnancies, so as to sensitize the community and persuade them to help their children especially those on the street to appreciate the consequences of the anti-social activities.

6.16 The Supply of food to FOH and the community

6.16.1 The role of NGO's and other corporate bodies in the supply of food to the vulnerable children at FOH is of significant importance. There would be no children at the centre if there were no food supplies.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the main supplier of food grain such as maize, peas and soya beans. They also supply salt and cooking oil. They are supported by Project Concern International (PCI) and Lusaka Hotel who supply mealie meal, beans, cooking oil, buka fish, salt and vegetables. Pamodzi Hotel on the other hand used to supply left over food

such as bread rolls, cooked potatoes, fish and chicken which the children eventually rejected because the food was usually stale.

6.16.2 The food is also provided to the families of Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC's), so as to boost the food supplies in the homes in order to sustain both the children and their parents. While child headed homes, the elderly and the poverty stricken families are all given food rations through FOH. The problem at the moment is that the number of beneficiaries is increasing and the supplies may eventually not be sufficient. Also the distribution mechanism should be improved in order to prevent any abuse of the system.

Secondly the food support system to the vulnerable people has increased and will perpetuate the donor dependency syndrome. In future, it will be difficult for the people to learn how to support themselves since they are only given the fish and not taught how to fish (Mao Tse Tung)

6.17 Organizational Structure

6.17.1 This consists of the Executive Director, Accountant and Administrator. These three people are mainly responsible for the welfare of the vulnerable children and street children. The Executive Director who reports to the board of FOH assumes all the responsibilities, which include among other things child welfare, public relations, project proposal writing, funding, budgeting, yearly work plan, records, strategic plans, meetings and the distribution of donated food stuffs to OVC's and their families. Below the administrative structure are teachers, clinical staff, ancillary staff and community helpers.

6.17.2 Communication between the administration and the rest of the functionaries is rather poor, since they do not hold meetings to discuss various issues of concern in the school. The Researcher found out that while some individual suggestions instituted by staff are accepted by the Executive Director, there have been no formal meetings embracing the rest of the staff members.

6.17.3 Communication between the administration and the children is mainly adhoc. Although it was stated that the children had a representative body through which they could air their grievances to the authorities, this was found not to be the case. Usually the aggrieved

children approached a member of staff they felt comfortable with to present their needs or complaints.

6.18 The health component at FOH

6.18.1 The clinic at FOH is a vital organ, for it plays an important part in screening children when they first come to the centre. It was reported however, that some of the children do not present themselves for medical examination upon arrival.

6.18.2 The clinic is not usually funded by FOH for the procurement of drugs and other medical requisites, but depends on donations of medicines which sometimes are found to have expired and unsuitable for use by the children. Because of its pivotal role, the clinic should be adequately funded and budgeted for by FOH administration

6.18.3 The community members around FOH especially the women and the children find the clinic very useful for antenatal facilities, health and baby care, prevention of HIV/AIDS instructions, under five clinic, family planning, and psycho-social counselling.
The clinic staff have good communication with both the children and the community. Its capacity in terms of staff and financial resources should therefore be strengthened for it to be more effective.

6.18.4 Related to the health facility is the poor state of the ablution blocks and cooking facilities which leave much to be desired. Therefore, a modern and clean ablution block should be built and the existing one should be properly maintained. While the open fire cooking place should be kept, it would be better if it was supplemented by an industrial stove in order to cope with the increased number of children. The cold room facilities to preserve the food properly should also be installed. Hygiene should be of primary importance in all these arrangements.

6.19 Limitations and Recommendations at FOH Centre

6.19.1 The main Limitation is the lack of adequate financial resources which results in low wages and poor conditions of service for the staff, which is a demotivating factor in their

performance. It is important therefore that Government and other stakeholders should seriously consider increasing their funding to the institution which should be properly managed.

6.19.2 There is a lack of adequate and suitably trained personnel which leads to low output in the general administration of the institution and the lack of understanding and appreciation of the children's multifarious problems. There is a need therefore for a well planed staff development programme in order to improve performance of existing staff. This should include relevant workshops, visits to and discussions with people from similar institutions and properly planned training programmes.

6.19.3 The Outreach Programme is a good idea, but it is none functional at the moment due to the lack of financial resources, pragmatic ideas and the poor economic situation in the country which has resulted in severe poverty and unemployment. For this programme to make a meaningful impact, there should be a massive injection of financial resources, adequate training for the staff in psycho social counselling procedures and provision of adequate transport facilities.

6.19.4 There should be extensive community sensitization about the negative effects of streetism, healthcare, advocacy on HIV/AIDS prevention which condition if not prevented results in the demise of parents living behind orphans and potential street children.

6.19.5 There is lack of effective communication between the street children and the community in which they live. As a result the children are perceived as thieves, rogues, unclean and dangerous to associate with. This image should be corrected through effective advocacy programmes in order to create positive symbiotic existence between the street children and the communities they live in.

6.19.6 Although the Researcher was denied the opportunity of a documentary search, it was observed that FOH lacked properly articulated project strategies which could quickly attract funding and public sector support.

6.19.7 The communication channels were mostly top-to-bottom approach, inhibiting any effective contribution and participation, by both the staff and the children who are the main stakeholders in the institution.

There were no regular consultative meetings in which issues concerning staff and the children could be quickly addressed more effectively. There is need therefore, for a new approach in administrative techniques to encompass among other things ideas of weekly meetings leading to performance reviews, and effective communication and participation in the affairs of the school by all concerned.

6.19.8 There is a need for increased consultation and collaboration between institutions servicing the street children, Government, NGO's and other stakeholders. The Government should be more focused in matters concerning the street children, should carry out regular physical inspections of the organizations to ensure that the expected standards are maintained and that the donated funds are properly accounted for.

The proliferation of child care centres should be carefully scrutinized in order to weed out bogus institutions, stem duplication of work, wastage of financial resources and to maximise the benefits to the children.

6.19.9 In spite of all the short comings at FOH, the institution is doing a commendable job by providing the much needed care, food, clothing and shelter to the many street and vulnerable children in the community.

6.19.10 In order for the FOH organisation to maximise its performance and achieve its intended objectives, the messages enshrined in its constitution must be carried out diligently and effectively. The street and vulnerable children should be allowed to participate in discussions concerning the root causes of their problems. This approach would contribute to the children's empowerment, so that they can take charge of their destinies.

Secondly, the communities living around the children's centre should be sensitised and conscientised about the effects of streetism and encouraged to communicate with the street and vulnerable children in order to work together for the common good.

The FOH administration should endeavour to obtain more financial resources in order to improve its activities and also be able to engage families of vulnerable children in income generating programmes.

For the various schemes to succeed at FOH there is need for the stakeholders, including the Government of the Republic of Zambia to network and work together in unison so as to achieve maximum results in all their programmes.

6.20 Summary

This chapter attempts to show the motivation for creating FOH, its aims and objectives and how FOH sets about to achieve these objectives in order to give maximum benefits to the street and vulnerable children.

The Researcher on the other hand investigates as to whether FOH uses effective communication and participatory strategies in order to achieve its goals for the maximum benefit of the intended beneficiaries.

The chapter also shows that there is a major shift in the provision of skills training, whereby the Government through Zambia National Service (ZNS) have taken over the role of providing the skills training to the street and vulnerable children as a way of improving the lives of these young people.

CHAPTER 7

7. 0 Main Findings

7.1 Introduction

The research focused on the plight of street and vulnerable children at the FOH centre, and the need for effective participatory communication between them and the various stakeholders, in order to improve the lives of the children. This chapter therefore is a discussion of the Researchers findings at the FOH centre, in the light of the various theories discussed in Chapter four; especially the communication, organisational communication and participatory communication theories.

The findings are based on the results of the research interviews, observations, focus group discussions (FGD) with the children, staff and representatives of the Government and the community located around FOH.

The data analysis using the "SPSS" social scientific tool was used to examine the population sample, demographic variables such as the distribution of sex, age, status, school attendance, sponsorship at school, and denomination categories.

The psycho-graphic data on the other hand was used to examine the need for economic and psycho-social security provided by the presence of parents, other siblings and family members.

The study also focused on the communication of information, concerning malaria, STI's, HIV/AIDS; drug abuse and causes of streetism.

Secondly, reference is made to the Government Draft National Youth Policy (DNYP), the Concept Paper on the empowerment of the street children and youth (MYSCD-2004), and the allocation and disbursement of the "youth empowerment fund of K40 billion kwacha" by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, in the election year of 2006.

7.2 Population sample and sex distribution

A total of 100 children were identified, randomly selected and interviewed. The children were composed of street children living on the streets of Lusaka, street children being rehabilitated at the FOH centre, while the last category consisted of vulnerable children from surrounding compounds. Of the 100 children 77 were male while 23 were female.

Chart 1. Sex Distribution

Sex

Sex
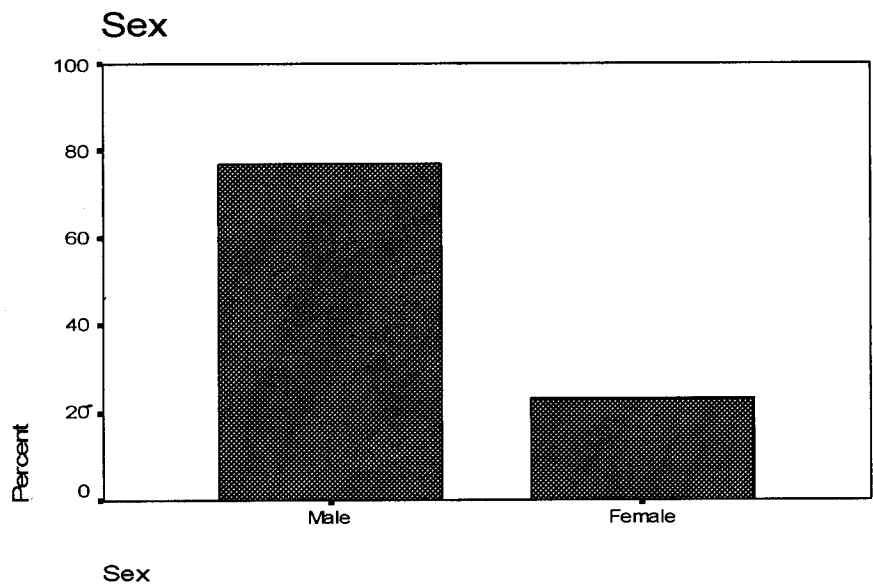
7.3 Status distribution

The survey shows that out of the 100 children interviewed 27% were non-orphans, 32% were single-orphans and 41% were double orphans. The largest number of children in the sample was double orphans, meaning that both their parents had died. The non-orphan category of 27% is significant, because although both parents were alive, the circumstances under which they lived in their homes were not conducive to good and sustainable living conditions. The parents were often poor, unemployed, some separated, divorced or just negligent as regards the support and care of their children. These unfavourable conditions forced some of the children to go on the streets in search of what they thought was "a better life"

Table 1. Status Distribution

Status		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	non orphan	27	27.0	27.0
	single orphan	32	32.0	59.0
	double orphan	41	41.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

7.4 Age distribution

The responses in the survey indicated that there were more older children at the centre of ages between 15 and 18 than the younger ones of ages between 10 and 14 or 5 to 9 years, showing percentages of 54%, 44% and 2 percent respectively. The main reason for the large number of older boys at the FOH centre is their desire to enter school and be able to acquire some sort of training and possible employment. The street and vulnerable children of ages between 5 to 9 years were usually found wandering aimlessly on the streets of Lusaka begging for money and foraging for food in dust bins and other unsavoury places, or sniffing "jenking" and subsequently sleeping on the ground in the streets.

Table 2. School Distribution

School		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	67	67.0	67.0
	No	33	33.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

7.5 School Distribution

At FOH the percentage of children in school was higher than that of children not attending school, 67% as opposed to 33%. Overall, most children found at the Centre wanted to attend school but there were not enough places to accommodate them. They perceived education as the key to the future opportunities in their lives.

It was observed that while there were more street and vulnerable children attending school at the centre, the true picture in the surrounding compounds showed that there were more children out of school. This was due to the fact that there are fewer schools and more children. Even with the proliferation of expensive private schools in Lusaka the schooling facilities were still inadequate.

Table 3 Sponsorship Distribution

Sponsor		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Father	7	7.0	7.0
	Mother	12	12.0	19.0
	Fountain Of Hope	47	47.0	66.0
	relative	1	1.0	67.0
	both parents	1	1.0	68.0
	Not applicable	32	32.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

7.6 Sponsorship Distribution

The sponsorship distribution showed that 47% of the children were sponsored by FOH. The children said this was because their parents were unable to find money for their school needs. An interesting observation is that 12% of the children were sponsored by their mothers and only 7 % were sponsored by their fathers. This is mainly due to the fact that the fathers were unemployed, while the mothers though unemployed, were self employed and more active than their male counterparts and operated as vendors of various consumables on the streets, markets and in their homes.

Table 4 Denomination Distribution

Denomination		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Roman Catholic	14	14.0	14.0
	Anglican	1	1.0	15.0
	UCZ	5	5.0	20.0
	SDA	6	6.0	26.0
	Pentecostal	7	7.0	33.0
	none	67	67.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

7.7 Denomination Distribution

The Denomination distribution approximates the distribution as exists in the larger society, with the Roman Catholics being the highest percentage at 14%, Pentecostals at 7%, Seventh Day Adventist Church (SDA) at 6%, the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) at 5% and lastly the Anglican Church at 1%. However 67% of the children, which constituted the largest number in the sample claimed not to belong to any church.

Some of the children in this floating category were sometimes collected by church leaders from the Baptist Congregation and Pentecostals in order to attend prayer meetings on Sundays.

Table 5 Presence of father

Presence of father.	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	37	37.0	37.0
No	63	63.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Table 6 Presence of mother

Presence of mother	Frequency	Percent
Valid Yes	54	54.0
No	46	46.0
Total	100	100.0

7.8 Presence of Parents

It was observed in the survey that streetism and the children's vulnerability were not necessarily a result of orphan-hood, but were due to a mixture of different factors, such as the

HIV/AIDS pandemic, poor economic performance of the country, unemployment, breakdown of family ties, rural urban migration, poor management of the country by politicians, population increase, drought and other man made catastrophes.

Responses by the children concerning the presence of some family members showed that 37% of the interviewees had fathers while 63% had none. 54% had mothers but 46 had none as shown in tables 6 and 7. Other responses showed that 71% of the children had brothers, while 29% had none. 75% of the respondents had sisters, while 25% had none. Finally, 73% of the children had other relations, while 27% had none.

The investigations further showed that although some of the parents and relatives were still alive, they had no capacity to look after their children. This led to the vulnerability of the children who more often than not, turned to the streets for survival.

The factors which reduced the capacities of the families such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, and unemployment, also contributed to the break down of the family ties. Therefore the notion that in Zambia extended family members help destitute children in the absence of their biological parents is no longer completely true.

For example, in a matrilineal society like the Bemba's of Northern Province of Zambia the woman's brother was previously responsible not only for his own children, but also for the sister's children. This responsibility has been reduced considerably.

Secondly, the formal employment sector has shrunk considerably, leaving the people unemployed while others engaged in self employment "Tamanga businesses"[1], operation of "Tuntemba's"[2] or engaging in what is usually referred to as "piece-work"[3], and street vending. All in all, resulting in unstable and unpredictable incomes.

7.9 Help from other family members

The investigations show that the relatives of the street and vulnerable children often gave little help as can be seen in table 12, which shows that only 22% received help from their relatives while 65% received no help at all.

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[1] Business of buying goods in rapid succession, from countries outside Zambia, such as Dubai, Republic of South Africa and Tanzania, for sale locally.
[2] Little road side shops.
[3] Not permanent employment.

Table 7 Help from other family members.

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	yes	22	22.0	22.0
	no	65	65.0	87.0
	Not applicable	13	13.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

7.10 Have the children lived on the street before?

When the children were asked as to whether they had lived on the streets before, 60% of them agreed that they had lived there before, while 40% of them had not lived on the streets before. However, both categories of these children found at FOH are vulnerable.

7.11 Where the children lived on the street.

The choices of where the children had lived on the streets showed that 25% of the children preferred staying at the bus stops because it provided opportunities for income generating activities like carrying parcels for shoppers or selling simple items such as plastic carrier bags. 15% lived on shop verandas and 13% at the railway station. These places were also favoured by the children for the slight comfort they provided. The least preferred places were the trenches 6% and the fly over bridge 1%. The remaining 40% of the children did not live on the street.

(Please see chart on next page)

Chart 2

Where have you lived on the street?
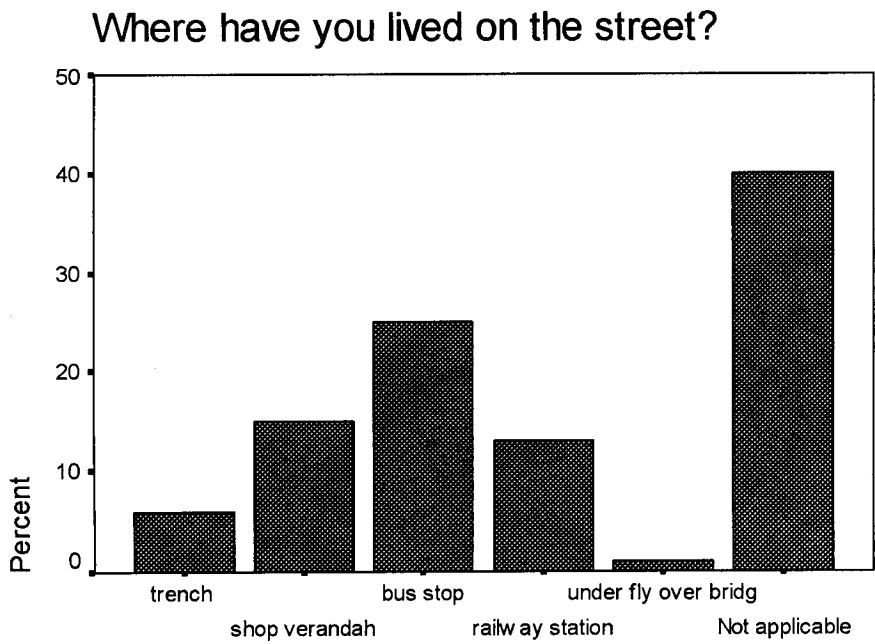
Where have you lived on the street?

The distribution of where the children preferred to live also indicates that these children want to mingle with many people at bus stops, shop verandas and the railway station. This is because contact and communication with the people is important for the street children to survive.

7.12 Reasons for being on the street

In seeking to address the issue of street children, it is necessary to know why the children are found there. According to the responses 39% of the children said that they had problems at their homes*, 16% were orphaned, 4% lived on the streets due to peer pressure and 1% had no homes. The remaining 40% of cases were not applicable as they did not live on the street.

(Please see table on next page)

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Table 8 Reasons for being on the street.

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	no home	1	1.0	1.0
	orphan	16	16.0	17.0
	home problems *	39	39.0	56.0
	peer pressure	4	4.0	60.0
	Not applicable	40	40.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	

Home problems here mean lack of money for life's essential commodities or poverty, and ill treatment from some parents or relatives.

7.13 Length of time spent on the streets

As for the length of time spent on the streets by the children, the study showed that 30% of the respondents had lived on the streets between 1 to 2 years, 3 % were there between 3 to 5 years, while 27% lived there for over 5 years.

The Researcher further established that the children who lived on the streets longest usually had little respect for the code of conduct at the FOH centre. They also exerted various forms of pressure on the new arrivals on the streets and at the centre. These children were infact the "leaders" whose authority could not be questioned by the new comers.

7.14 Number of children that had lived in a child care centre before

Investigations as to whether the children had lived in a child care centre revealed that out of a sample of 100 children interviewed, 65% had lived at the FOH centre while 35 had not lived there. As to how the children came to know about the centre, the responses revealed that although the centre had been in existence since 1996, the administration did not market

the location and the benefits of going to the centre effectively. As a result only 2% of the children were persuaded by the FOH to go to the centre; another 2% were brought by their parents while 24% were introduced by friends and 37% by good Samaritans. The remaining 35 % had not lived in a child care centre.

The study found out that residence and utilization of the FOH facilities is an important step for the children's psycho-social rehabilitation and provision of some of their needs, such as schooling, food, clothing, shelter and health-care. The failure by the FOH centre staff to effectively inform their clients, the street and vulnerable children about their products is a big minus. It underlines the absence in the centre, of effective communication channels and strategies in the amelioration of the vulnerable children's problems. In fact, this result shows that the FOH communication channels and strategies to market their activities are grossly inadequate.

7.15 The children's understanding of STI's and HIV/AIDS

The children's understanding of STI's and HIV/AIDS show that the information about the dangers these diseases cause has been effectively communicated to the street and vulnerable children. Despite the general observation that these children lacked basic education and parental guidance in matters of sex and that the negative economic pressures and poverty may drive the vulnerable girls to prostitution, which may bring about STI's, the study has on the contrary showed that only 5% of the children had suffered from STI's.

As for the HIV/AIDS, none of the children interviewed, according to their responses had suffered from this disease[4]. (Table 14, page 83) However, it should be pointed out that the children appeared to be apprehensive when asked about HIV/AIDS. Information provided about Voluntary Testing and Counselling (VCT), the need for HIV test and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, showed that the children were given adequate information on all these issues.

8.0 How can HIV/AIDS be prevented?

Investigations as to how HIV/AIDS would be prevented revealed that 95% of the respondents preferred abstinence as a way of preventing HIV/AIDS and only 5% preferred the use of condoms. (See chart 7, page 83). These responses indicate that the communications messages on the prevention of HIV/AIDS were effectively carried out by the families, communities and agencies involved in the dissemination of preventative

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[4] No other method other than the verbal interview was used to determine the HIV status of the children

measures against the deadly pandemic. The dissemination of information concerning HIV/AIDS embraces many forms of communication channels such as interpersonal communication, family communication and mass communication.

The investigation showed that the health authorities, the community and the FOH used the various communication channels to disseminate the vital and life saving information to the street and vulnerable children.

It was encouraging to note that most of the children 76% of them were prepared to take the HIV/AIDS test at the time when they are sexually active. (Table 10, page 83)

Chart 3.

How can HIV/AIDS be prevented?

How can HIV/AIDS be prevented?
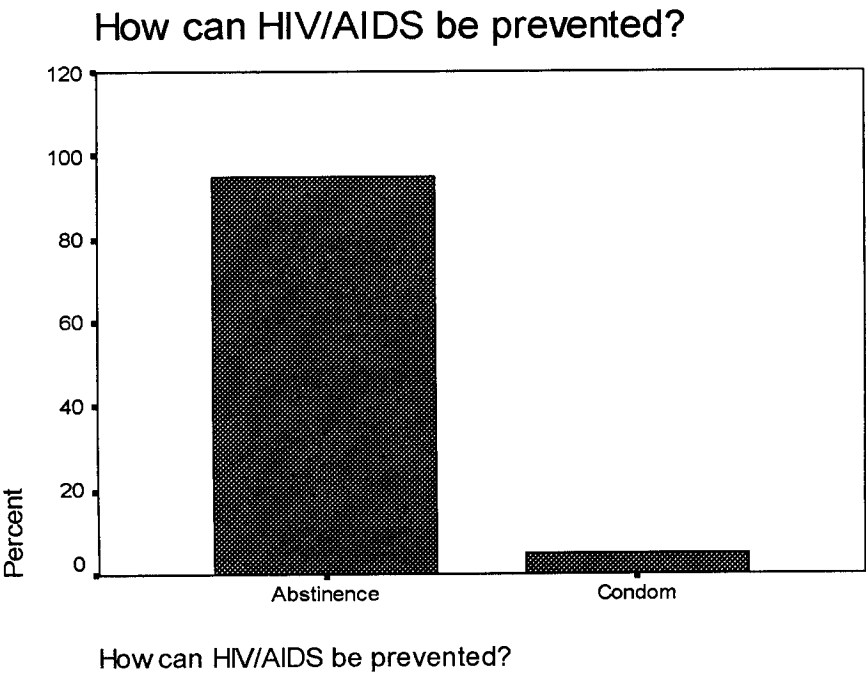
Table 9 Do you have HIV/AIDS?

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No	100	100.0	100.0

Table 10 Would you like to have an HIV/AIDS test

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid yes	76	76.0	76.0
No	24	24.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

9.0 Investigations into incidences of malaria suffered by the children at FOH

Investigations into incidences of malaria showed that there was a high level of infection at 79% of malaria cases among the street and vulnerable children, which needed to be addressed urgently.

Most of the children had suffered from malaria for more than two times and 65% of them did not use mosquito nets.

Chart 4.

Have you ever suffered from malaria?
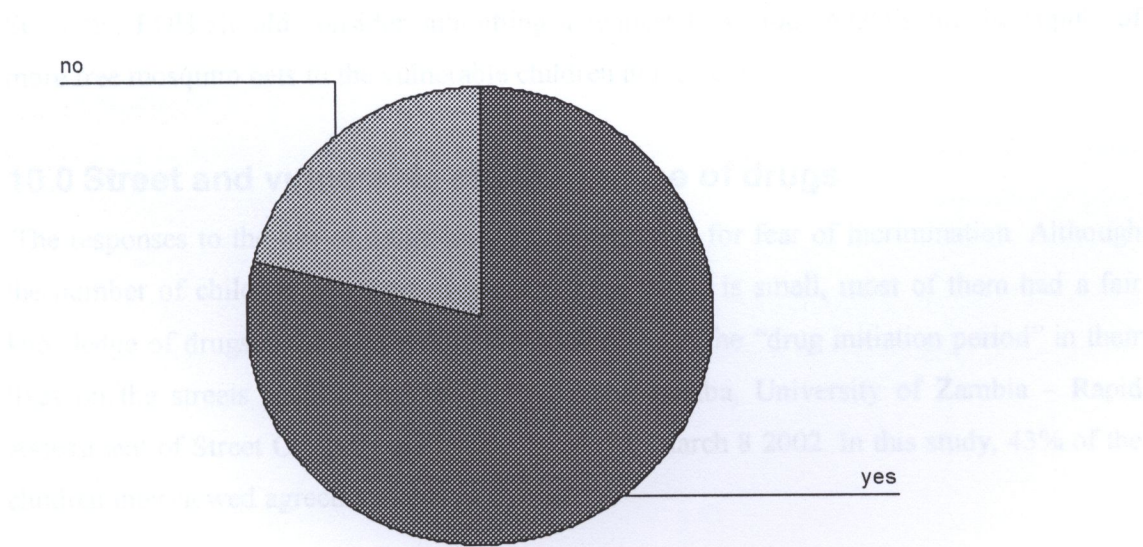
Table 11 Have you ever used a mosquito net?

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid yes	35	35.0	35.0
no	65	65.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	

Since malaria kills a lot of children in Zambia it is of paramount importance that the health authorities should effectively disseminate malaria prevention information among the street and vulnerable children more effectively than they have done in the past.

Since the FOH has an active Drama Group, It is necessary for the members to be trained intensively in causes and prevention of malaria so that they can effectively transmit the information to the street and vulnerable children through well designed drama plays in local languages in the various compounds, children's centres and locations where these vulnerable children are mostly found. This approach is an effective way through which the street and vulnerable children can participate and compliment efforts made by Government and other stakeholders against the spread of malaria.

Secondly, FOH should consider submitting a request to various NGO's for the supply of more free mosquito nets to the vulnerable children at the centre

10.0 Street and vulnerable children's use of drugs

The responses to the use of drugs were usually evasive for fear of incrimination. Although the number of children who agreed to have taken drugs is small, most of them had a fair knowledge of drugs and appeared to have gone through the "drug initiation period" in their lives on the streets as observed by Dr. Musonda Lemba, University of Zambia – Rapid Assessment of Street Children in Lusaka – page 22, March 8 2002. In this study, 43% of the children interviewed agreed to have used drugs.

10.1 Type of drugs used by the street and vulnerable children

As for the type of drugs used 25% of the children claimed to have used petrol fumes, 16% had smoked dagga while 2% smoked cigarettes and the remaining 57% claimed not to have used drugs.

10.2 Reasons given for taking the drugs

The results of the interviews also showed that 37% of the children took drugs because of peer pressure, 2% out of frustration with their lives and the other 2% due to hunger. The remaining 59% did not take drugs.

10.3 Length of drug use

It was further established that 24% of the children had used drugs for more than 4 years. This means that such children had become addicted to the drugs which are bound to damage their various organs in the body and cause deadly harm.

10.4 Knowledge about Drug Enforcement Commission and their work

According to the responses on drug use, over 54% of the children interviewed had some knowledge about the Drug Enforcement Commission and their work. The children acknowledged that the commission usually held discussions with them over the effects of drugs. In spite of the awareness of the children on the effects of the drugs, the Researcher observed that the street children in Lusaka still continued to sniff glue. It is encumbered upon the Government through the DEC and other stakeholders to find more effective ways of stopping the children from drug use. Also, participation by more children in the FOH drama group which depicts various factors of street life by the children including drug abuse should certainly be encouraged.

11.0 Communication

Communication is one of the pillars of this study, and it is also a fundamental element to human existence. As indicated earlier, different definitions of communication have been given by various authors. Some authors state that communication occurs when humans

manipulate symbols to stimulate meaning in other humans (Infante, Rancer and Womack 1997:8)

Kasoma on the other hand suggests that communication is the sharing of human experiences and the environment between persons. (Kasoma F. 1994) The deduction from these definitions is that the intended meaning of the message by the sender must be correctly received by the receiver, and that the common experience and environment will facilitate the understanding of the messages concerned.

The point of interest here is whether the message of drug use by the street children has been effectively communicated by various people to the intended beneficiaries, who are the street children; or the unfriendly conditions under which the street children live have prevented them from interpreting the message correctly; or the numbing effects of the drug have prevailed over the children? This situation demands further studies in order to save the lives of our children.

11.1 Communication also comes to the fore in the responses to the questions as to whom the children at FOH speak to concerning their problems. The children who were interviewed spent most of their time at the FOH centre, mostly with the staff, teachers, some members of the community and their friends. The children spoke to the people mostly about their needs such as school places, food, shelter, clothing and the opportunity to take part in the various sporting activities at the centre. However, the children, who did not live at the centre or the streets, returned to their respective homes in the surrounding compounds and also had an opportunity to talk to their parents or guardians who together with the teachers prescribed various remedies to their problems.

11.2 It was established that 55% of the children interviewed presented their problems to their teachers, while 35% spoke to their parents or guardians, 5% to their peers, 2% consulted with their relatives and 3% did not speak to anyone about their problems.

Since a larger number of street and vulnerable children spoke to their teachers about their problems, it is imperative that the teachers attain acceptable levels of education and professional skills in psycho-social counselling to be able to advise the vulnerable children properly and correctly.

11.3 The other angle of communication can be viewed as indicated in one of the objectives of this study when "examining the nature of the communication linkages between street

children, their families and communities with a view to improve their interaction and the lives of the street children".

This situation is illustrated by the vigorous physical and mental communication which prevailed when the children from different backgrounds played games of volley ball, netball and football in the confined play ground at FOH. The interaction was even better when members of the community and the children from the surrounding compounds came and joined in these activities. The benefits were that the children dissipated their energies in a positive way rather than pursuing dangerous and degrading activities in the streets. Also the children at FOH were able to make friends with children from the compounds and the community members. The communication and social linkages created made the community members to appreciate the problems of the street and vulnerable children better and the children in the micro cosmic community of FOH gained some positive insights and ideas about life in the larger society.

12.0 Consideration of help from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development

Consideration of help from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and, Child Development and the responsibility of the Government to street and vulnerable children, is of great interest to the Researcher.

12.1 When the children were asked as to whether they received any help from the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Child Development (MYSCD) and whether the Government was doing enough to help them; the response to the first question was rather disappointing, since some of the children did not even know what this ministry was and what it could do for them. The results showed that 73% of the children responded that the MYSCD did not help them, while 27% said the Ministry helped them through sporting activities.

This means that the Ministry which is designed to look after the interests of the children did not communicate effectively with its clientele. For instance 75% of the children did not know what help the MYSCD was offering to them, 14% mentioned sport as the service provided by the Ministry.

12.2 As for help from the Government, the children responded that Government was not doing enough to help them as regards their needs and aspirations, especially in the provision of basic education, skills training, employment generation and the provision of food, clothing

and shelter. The children testified that tangible help at the FOH centre was mainly provided by international organisations such as USAID, UNICEF, WFP, and UNDP.

In accordance with objective 3.2 in chapter 3 of this exposition which is designed to examine "the existence of achievable communication networks and linkages between the various stakeholders, which includes Government in their efforts to try and find solutions to the problems of the street and vulnerable children", the study has shown that there is poor networking and communication between the government the other stakeholders, the FOH centre and the street and vulnerable children. This state of affairs has led to the failure by government and other stakeholders to find effective and sustainable solutions to the problems of the vulnerable children. This conclusion is not meant to belittle the work being done by some NGO's and to some extent the Government. The point is that the various stakeholders are capable of doing much more and it is the hope that this study will spur them to contribute even more.

13.0 The need for consultation.

13.1 The need for consultation with the street and vulnerable children by Government and other stakeholders is reflected in the research findings, where 95% of the children indicated that they wanted to be consulted in matters concerning their problems, which included among other things material, physical and psycho –social needs.

Chart. 5

Would you like to be consulted?

Would you like to be consulted?
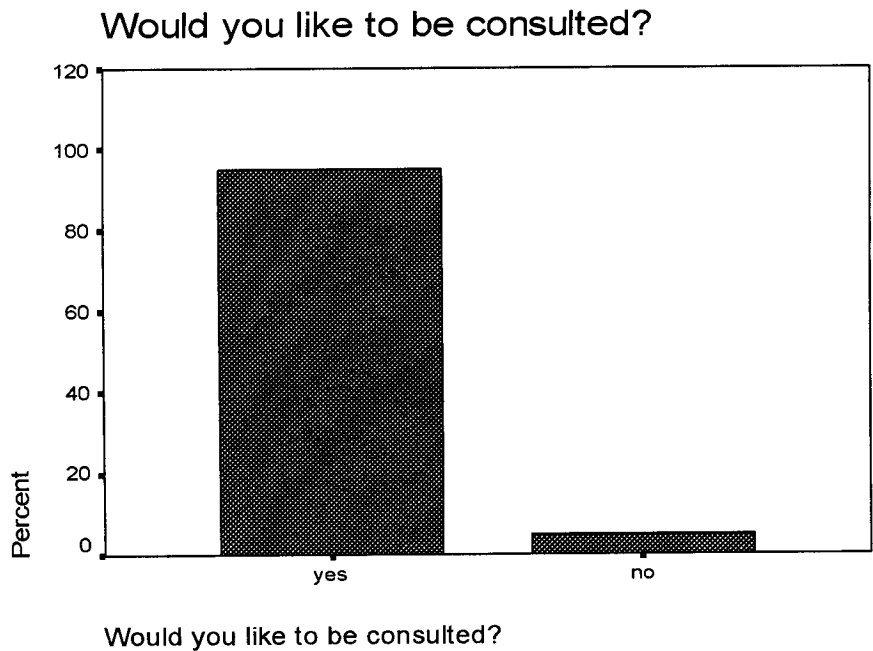
13.2 As for the reasons for wanting to be consulted 53% of the children wanted to be consulted in order to learn about the proposed programmes, 17% wanted to decide for themselves as to what they wanted to do, 16% thought that consultation would lead to the alleviation of their problems, 7% indicated that through consultation they would inform the stakeholders about what they wanted to do, 3% thought the consultation would precipitate jobs for them and the last 4% of the children did not want to be consulted.

13.3 As indicated in the "humanist theory" earlier on, participation is a learning process through which participants become self-reliant. Participation provides a viable method for community capacity building. It makes people solve their problems as they encounter them. In the process people acquire problem solving skills. They learn to act on their own and become independent. They initiate, innovate and collectively construct the inputs for desired outputs. (Robert Huesca). It follows therefore, that streetism and children's vulnerability can be effectively mitigated through effective communication by the parties concerned and by the children actively taking part in the planning and execution of the programmes.

14.0 Participation by children in discussions concerning their problems at FOH.

14.1 At FOH it was found that 98% of the street and vulnerable children said that they did not take part in the discussions concerning their plight with management, the government or other stakeholders. This state of affairs normally led to suspicions by the children concerning any ideas or programmes designed for them and often led to negative responses, non-sustainability of programmes and subsequent waste of resources.

14.2 Therefore, it is important for Government and other stakeholders to involve the intended beneficiaries, who are the children in need, in their plans and execution of the children's programmes, in order to maximise the results and benefits of the programmes to the children.

14.3 Government acknowledges the fact that it has not effectively involved the street children in particular and the youth in general. Therefore in order to address this issue, in the DNYP of 2005 it is stated that:

> "The youth policy shall promote the participation of the youth regardless of gender, geographical area or social status in National Development. To uphold this principle, Government will endeavour to promote youth participation in politics, private and public sector, training and economic development through targeted capacity building"
>
> (Draft National youth Policy, 2005 Youth Participation Page 21, 3.4)

While the overall objective of the policy is to,

> "Provide integrated and comprehensive development of each youth's potential and, adequately prepare them for becoming self supporting and responsible persons capable of making useful contribution to society and national development"
>
> (DNYP 2005 Page 9, 3.1 overall objective)

15.0 Communication and channels of communication between the street and vulnerable children on one hand and stakeholders on the other.

15.1 The investigations revealed that 95% of the children at FOH were not properly informed by Government about any programmes designed to help them, while 60% of the children were informed about these programmes through news bulletins on television, since the children have a TV set in their sleeping quarters. 19% were informed through radio programmes or news bulletins in their homes, while 12% were informed through interpersonal communication processes. The remaining 9% claimed that they did not get any information at all.

15.2 It was established by the Researcher that the channels used by the government and other stakeholders are ineffective, since there is no feedback and the targeted population cannot ask questions about the various issues concerned.

16.0 Media used by children at FOH for information

16.1 As for media reception 88% of the children at FOH receive information through radio, 11% through television and 1% from newspapers while 89% are entertained through television and 11% by radio.

16.2 It was observed by the Researcher that news heard on mass-media channels was not well perceived or appreciated because of the children's low level of education and their lack of general knowledge on matters of national importance.

16.3 Entertainment programmes were easily perceived and absorbed, because they often had visual impact, especially football and musical programmes on television.

It is important therefore that besides the formal education being provided, arrangements for disseminating general knowledge to the children should be made in order to improve and increase their understanding of the world around them.

17.0 Importance of participation of the youth in their own affairs.

17.1 The Government of the Republic of Zambia through the Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development announced early in 2005, that they would remove some street children from the streets of Lusaka and send them to Katete and Kitwe National Service camps for training in bricklaying, carpentry and tailoring. During this exercise, the initial targeted children 49 in number mostly from community schools were not adequately consulted, but were just informed and then transported to Katete National Service camp. The Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development further made a statement that about six hundred street children would be sent to the Kitwe ZNS camp after the renovations of the camp had been completed. The Researcher suggested to the Ministry at the time that some of the youths should be sent to the Kitwe ZNS camp in order to take part in the renovation exercise. This approach it was stated, would allow the young people to participate in the creation of their new learning environment. The suggestion was rejected, and the camp could not open on time, because the Government did not have adequate financial resources to complete the renovation programme on time, as scheduled.

It is important to note that the Zambian Government approach to try and solve the problems of the street children is guided by the Top-Down paternalistic and authoritarian approach with little or no participation in the decision making process by the intended beneficiaries, who in this case are the street children. This approach is also reflected in both the concept paper on the empowerment of street children and youth of 2004 and the allocation and disbursement of Youth Empowerment Fund of 40 billion Kwacha in the election year of 2006.

In the reproductive health projects in the country however, NGOs are beginning to involve the youth in their programmes. For example, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO have recently placed a priority on incorporating young people in all aspects of programming in meaningful ways. From the available information, it is clear that youth involvement results in many advantages to a programme, its target audience and the participating youth themselves. These advantages include an increased sense of project ownership and relevance, assistance with recruitment and in identifying messages and communication channels, which ultimately give rise to new and vital ideas leading to improved project outcomes.

17.2 In the peer education area, there is an increased self-esteem and leadership potential among the involved youth and a likely pay-off in the future for the present investment. However youth involvement also has obstacles and challenges. For example, allowing the youth to share power and authority is difficult to accept in some traditions and cultures. Although with training, understanding and financial commitment the difficulties may be overcome. Some specific examples of involving youth and reproductive health projects are cited by Judith Senderowitz (1998 p19).

> "The West African Youth Initiative placed a major emphasis on youth involvement in its nine community based peer education projects in Nigeria and Ghana. While peer education is the standard intervention used by the projects, other strategies to involve youth, including decision-making, monitoring and some administrative tasks, have been implemented."

The project was designed to help small non-governmental and governmental projects beginning to implement reproductive health education activities for the youth at the community level.

> "The Mathare Youth Sports Association in Kenya promotes sports and slum clean-up activities and includes reproductive health education in its activities. Its emphasis on youth participation is its most unique aspect. The project is for the youth and is run by the youth. In addition to providing overall direction to the organization, the youth serve as team players, coaches, health educators and managers. The association has a bottom-up decision making structure that has successfully empowered youth to develop new skills, become role models, and serve as responsible members of society. ('FOR THE YOUTH, RUN BY THE YOUTH' – Mathare Youth Sports Association [MYSA] – Kenya)"

18.0 The Draft national Youth Policy of 2005

18.1 The Government of the Republic of Zambia in the Draft National Youth Policy of 2005 prepared by the MYSCD states that their 1994 National Youth Policy was unsatisfactory and inadequate, because it lacked guidance and support to the youth in the areas of counselling, recreational facilities, education, skills training, and employment creation.

18.2 In the draft National Youth policy, 2005 the government in its own admission states that other factors affecting youth programmes in the country at the moment are;

> "Poor information flow, from the Government and other stakeholders, to the youth at district and provincial levels. Inadequate staffing levels in the Ministry of Youth, Sport and child Development and other service providers limit youth participation in national youth programmes. As a result there has

Because of the poor information flow from government and other stakeholders to the youth in general and to the street children in particular, there has been poor coordination and networking of youth programmes in the country as a whole.

If the Government programmes are to be successfully implemented, communication should be viewed not only as a component, but as the basis of development; since it is through communication that development decisions are made and disseminated. It is important therefore for development of street children to be context-specific and relevant, and the intended beneficiaries who are street children should participate actively in the decision making and implementation processes.

This means that the street children collectively should identify problems based on their lived realities and perceptions. This would create a favourable atmosphere for their community's mutual comprehension, positive attitude, goodwill, legitimacy, sense of ownership and responsibility for their development projects. Consensual identification and mutual comprehension of their community problems should open up collective strategies for confronting identified community problems. This is called convergence and synergy, the means by which communities achieve more results with fewer resources within relatively shorter periods, hence the 2+2=5 effect. This means that convergence and synergy, which is beneficiary-driven, development, lies with communication.

Therefore, if there is effective participatory communication between the street children and the various stakeholders in the development programmes for these vulnerable children, positive and sustainable development would be achieved.

18.3 The Draft youth policy further states that:-

"The majority of youths in Zambia are socially and economically disadvantaged. They have no access to the basic services required to develop and lead independent lives. In addition they have been marginalized in decision-making processes in the private and public sectors.

Unemployment among the youth has also been identified as one of the biggest problems, which has led the youth to be involved in crime, early marriages and other health threatening vices. No access to education among the youth has limited their access to formal employment. This has been attributed to

unaffordable costs due to poverty, distances to and from school, limited number of schools and inadequate infrastructure."

18.4 In order to address the various shortfalls and problems experienced by the youth the Government established what they thought were viable programmes. These are skills training institutions, offering what they thought are demand driven programmes throughout the country, such as bricklaying, carpentry and tailoring.

Fortunately, the researcher had the opportunity of visiting some of the skills training centres in the Northern Province of Zambia based at Mpika, Chinsali, Luwingu and Kasama and prospecting skills training areas in Mbala and Mpulungu.

These training centres are located in administrative centres (Bomas) and not in the villages where most youths live, and caters for very small numbers of youths.

Secondly, the finances to support the programmes are grossly inadequate, to the extent that some of the programmes did not function properly, except where they were donor funded like the Mpika centre.

The idea of providing "demand driven" programmes in the skills training institutions had its' set backs. In the tailoring programme for example, the people preferred to buy cheap "salaula"[5] as opposed to the expensive tailored clothes. This competition negated the plans of the tailoring programme.

19.0 The Vision of the DNYP, 2005

19.1 The vision of the policy is to have,

"a Zambia that guarantees at least 50% of youth employment, 30% youth representation at all levels of decision making in the public sector and where all youth exercise their rights and obligations, and enjoy equitable opportunity to participate in National development by 2015 regardless of their gender, ability, HIV/AIDS status or locality."

19.2 The main principles in the draft youth policy are equity, accessibility, and gender inclusiveness. In order to achieve these objectives the policy subscribes to:-

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[5] Imported cheap second hand clothes

"The principles of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of resources, programmes and services aimed at empowering the youth. It also endeavours to promote equal access to social-economic and employment opportunities commensurate with ability, potential and needs of all vulnerable youth."

19.3 In reference to streetism, the draft policy states that,

"The Government will endeavour to eliminate streetism by putting in place policies that bring about poverty reduction, economic growth, create employment and skills training."

Examining the Government DNYP, it is clear that there is no effective communication between them and the street and vulnerable children; and that participation by these children in these matters pertaining to their well being have not been adequately addressed.

In the Researcher's view therefore, the Government's lofty ideas about eliminating streetism and the suffering of the vulnerable children would only be achieved if there is positive political will, belief in the self and national pride as a basis for economic and social development. Also, there should be effective communication and participation by all categories of the youths in matters of national reconstruction, cessation from donor dependency and the localising of political, democratic, economic and social ideas.

20.0 Consultation by stakeholders and participation by street and vulnerable children.

20.1 One of the objectives in this study is to - investigate the degree of participation by street children in the discussions and decisions made by stakeholders concerning their welfare. In the survey, 91% of the children responded that they were not consulted by the various stakeholders, including Government when they made decisions which affect their lives. The questions of consultation and participation are important factors in progressive human development situations.

As indicated earlier in the definition of participation, the main concerns of participation are power and control.

20.2 It is the Researcher's view that streetism and the enormous problem of vulnerable children can be mitigated if the children and to some extent their parents are consulted and included in the various attempts made by the stakeholders and the government to alleviate

their problems. The fundamental principles of inclusion, equal partnership, transparency, sharing power, sharing responsibilities, empowerment, co-operation, control and accountability should be infused in all the plans and programmes designed to help the vulnerable and street children.

20.3 In the 2005 DNYP the Government under the title of "Youth Participation" states that:-

> "The policy seeks to ensure youth participation at all levels of public and private sector planning and in political decision making bodies through close cooperation between governments and non governmental organisations (DNYP chapter 2; 2.3 youth participation)
>
> In this draft policy youth empowerment entails equipping youth with appropriate multiple skills that are sustainable and profitable, providing them with resources such as land and micro-finance and an enabling environment for development and the creation of wealth and jobs. According to the government therefore, the measures to empower the youth include; enterprise development, micro-financing, resettlement schemes rehabilitation and youth training programmes, re-integration of street and other vulnerable youth into the communities and providing appropriate support systems to cater for their diverse interests including agriculture"
>
> (DNYP-2005 – Youth empowerment 3; 3.2)

The DNYP-2005, which is a statement of intent shows that the government has not yet adequately prepared the mode of participation by the street and vulnerable children, as to how to mitigate their plight in the current harsh economic and social environment.

20.4 The 2006 budgetary allocation and disbursement of the Youth Empowerment Fund of forty billion Kwacha (K40 billion), appears to target young investors, youth who belong to organised groups or and co-operatives and not amorphous, wandering and loitering groupings of street children.

It is said that the fund, "will provide seed money for youth projects, innovations and youth enterprise" and has been categorised as follows:-

1. Youth Constituency Development Fund has been allocated six (6) billion kwacha that is forty (40) million kwacha for each constituency, for youth with viable projects in poverty reduction and development.

2. Youth Empowerment Fund twenty nine (29) billion Kwacha, also for poverty reduction in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, mining, trade, information technology, micro-credit initiatives etc; funds to be given as loans.

3. Youth investors Fund - Five (5) billion Kwacha, to assist young people with technological innovations, technical skills, creativity, inventions and research.

While it is possible for Government to divert this money to the alleviation of the plight of the street children, it would have been better for Government to have a specifically voted fund for the rehabilitation of street children.

20.5 The Concept Paper on the Empowerment of Street Children and Youth-(MYSCD 2004)

20.5.1 This is the sixth draft produced by the MYSCD in March 2004 and is a pre-cursor of the Draft National Youth Policy of 2005 (MYSCD). The project aim was to remove children from the streets and empower them with skills by using the Zambia National Service infrastructure and equipment in the nine provinces of the country.

20.5.2 Goal

"The goal of the project was to eliminate the problem of street children, youth illiteracy and reduce youth unemployment by identifying, rehabilitating and re-integrating young people into the mainstream of national development by the year 2010."

20.5.3 Target Group

"The programme targeted street children and youth between the ages 15 to 25. The age group 0 to 14 would initially be taken to reception centres run by NGO's CBO's, FBO's, which were identified and were expected to undertake screening and tracer programmes to try and locate parents/ guardians and counsel the children where possible."

20.5.4 Objectives

There were many objectives of which the main one was to identify needy children and youth in order to establish appropriate interventions.

20.5.5 Strategies

There were many strategies, but the idea was to work closely with NGO's, CBO', FBO's dealing with street children, who would identify and trace needy children and youth. The Government would then commission a Rapid Assessment Study to ascertain the extent of the Streetism.

It should be noted however, that in the year 2001 a Rapid Assessment of children living on the streets of Lusaka was conducted by a group of Zambian NGO's under the auspices of

Africa KIDSAFE a network of NGO's providing services to street children initiated jointly by Project Concern International Zambia (PCIZ) and Fountain of Hope (FOH). The main objectives of the rapid assessment were:

1. "to provide information on the basic demographics, background characteristics and needs of street children in Lusaka"
2. "to provide information to NGO's, the Government and other stakeholders for planning and implementing a programme of withdrawal of children from the streets and;
3. to build the capacity of NGO's to systematically gather and record information on the children.

20.6 In the Researchers' opinion the Rapid Assessment Survey's results and recommendations were not fully embraced by the Government and other stakeholders. The lack of effective communication and participation by the stakeholders in the plight of the street children and the escalating economic decline, poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic all contributed to the increase of street children in Zambian towns.

20.7 Comments by a concerned senior civil servant

The Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs; appearing before the parliamentary committee on legal affairs, governance, human rights and gender stated that:-

20.7.1 "Zambia will be in flames if the issue of street kids is not addressed urgently...... The issue of street children is a big problem facing the country. The problem had been that stakeholders were addressing the symptoms of the problem and not the root causes. The root cause of street children problem in the country is high poverty levels. So let us address the issue of poverty in this country. Due to poverty, the extended family system has broken down to an extent that we cannot look after our brothers or our sisters children', let alone our own children. One day Zambia will go into flames as they say that street children are a time bomb.

We need to do something MP's please talk about real issues such as this one instead of trivial issues you talk about in parliament... you should bury your differences and actually address the issue of street children in the country."

Mumba stated that, "his ministry had liaised with UNICEF and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services on how best they could tackle the problem, He said, "though the street children problem was not his Ministry's baby, as a law enforcement ministry it had to play a role to address the problem" (The Post, Wednesday April 5, 2006)

20.7.2 This article confirms the findings of this study, that there is poor networking and communication between the various ministries and other stakeholders concerning the problems of street children. For the plight of street children to be contained Government, the various stakeholders including the community and the street children themselves should work together in unison to reduce poverty by mounting development programmes based on the abundant natural resources.

21.0 Summary

The focus of this chapter has been the importance of effective communication and participatory strategies in empowering the street and vulnerable children, so that they can take part in deciding their destinies.

Secondly the chapter included a brief critique of the Government Draft National Youth Policy on how they plan to solve the problems of street and vulnerable children.

CHAPTER 8

8.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

SECTION A

Introduction

In the conclusions and recommendations of this exposition, we should not lose sight of the fact that God has given us a beautiful Zambia. A vast country covering 752,612 square kilometres, which is 2.5 percent of the total, surface area of Africa, with a population of only 10,285,000 inhabitants, as per the last census (CSO 2000). The country has great potential and is endowed with enormous quantities of natural resources which if used intelligently, frugally and efficiently with modern technology as a firing pin, Zambia and its people should be able to create wealth which if distributed properly and equally, should contribute to the solutions of some of our pressing problems, such as poverty, unemployment, streetism, HIV/AIDS and good governance. Emphasis should be on the people's participation as the prime-mover of development.

Secondly, the plight of the street and vulnerable children is primarily the responsibility of the Zambian Government and Zambians themselves through initiatives like the FOH, and not the donor community. The Government and the people should prioritise the use of its financial resources to include the rehabilitation of street and vulnerable children, using effective communication and participatory strategies in order to empower the children.

The researcher is aware of the impact of globalisation and modern technology, which has positive contributions, but which has also contributed to the destruction of our cultural norms and values. It is incumbent upon the Government and the people of Zambia to solve the problems of the street and vulnerable children by introducing the good cultural values and practices, not only through cultural ceremonies, but by introducing the cultural values in the schools and encouraging these values in society through the use of mass media channels.

8.1 The attempt by FOH to contribute to the mitigation of the plight of the street children and other vulnerable children is commendable and should be supported by all stakeholders.

8.2 The practical skills training is not currently provided at FOH because of lack of adequate space, non-availability of financial resources and technical staff. The Government, FOH and other stakeholders must seriously re-examine this area and find a better way forward.

8.3 There is no forum for the vulnerable children to deliberate and understand the root causes of their problems. While the Participatory Humanist Theory emphasises the fact that people are capable of discovering their problems and finding solutions to them, the FOH management does not encourage effective organised participation by the children in their affairs. What was visibly encouraged were the various games of volleyball and spontaneous football sessions, which engaged street children and vulnerable children from the compounds and those resident at the centre.

The researcher recommends that the FOH administration should deliberately encourage the street and vulnerable children to engage in the "self discovery" programmes, examining the root causes of their problems and finding possible solutions. (Robert Huesca)

As the Mexican proverb says, "Hacinos el camino caminadda", they should make the path by walking it and subsequently find solutions to their problems.

8.4 FOH - Programmes
8.4.1 The Outreach

The basic concept of this programme is participatory communication. The process of re-integrating children into their families requires well trained staff, adequate financial resources, good transport facilities and above all, effective counselling of both the child and the parents, through self-expression, individual and group counselling procedures.

If the children are above the age of 18 years, they should be absorbed into appropriate skills training programmes, based on natural resources which would give them practical life skills, and become a source of income for the benefit of both the child and the family.

As previously stated, the FOH programme is not very successful partly because it has inadequate trained staff, meagre financial resources to motivate the teachers by way of good conditions of service and better remuneration.

The researcher recommends that the centre should be more creative and organise fund raising ventures.

Secondly, the Government should also adequately fund the centre for major operations such s infrastructure development, maintenance and expansion of the institution.

8.4.2 The Mothers programme

This programme is based on participatory communication development principles by empowering women in health care, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, entrepreneurial skills training and the provision of micro credit finances.

This is intended to make the women self reliant, build up their capacities, for them to acquire problem solving skills and ultimately become independent and manage their families properly.

As in the other programmes this programme has not been very successful because it has also been poorly managed due to lack of suitably trained staff and the lack of financial resources. Again, it is recommended that Government and other stakeholders should adequately fund this programme in order to have the desired impact, such as genuine participation, entrepreneurship, wealth creation and poverty alleviation. This would lead to the empowerment of both the street children and the community,

"genuine participation directly addresses power and its distribution in society, equitable sharing of both political and economic power". (Servaes et al. 1996:16)

The researcher further recommends that Government should pass some legislation to prevent parents from encouraging their children to indulge in anti-social activities such as prostitution, which is sometimes used to raise money for the families. In the same vein, parents should be counselled and prevented from abusing their small children by sending them on income generating errands such as vending on the streets or market places, when they should be in school.

8.4.3 The Centre Programme

This provides an excellent opportunity for effective communication and participation, during the health care teachings for mothers and vulnerable children.

The researcher recommends that the programme should be well funded, provided with more trained staff to be able to give proper medical care, and counselling of the children and their parents.

8.4.4 The Basic Education

This is the backbone of all the programmes at the centre and the foundation of the vulnerable children's future. Therefore, the researcher recommends that more funding should be provided by the Government and other stakeholders in order to improve and sustain the programme.

Secondly, In order to increase the activities at, FOH, the institution should acquire the adjacent beer hall for school use. This establishment is currently a great distraction to the centre teachers, the vulnerable children and the community.

8.4.5 Community Participation

This is an important pillar in the attempt to re-integrate street children in their families and community in general.

The researcher recommends that community members should be sensitised and conscientised about their obligations and the rights of the vulnerable children. This communication approach and linkage, should provide the basis for the possible creation of FOH community branches, which will assist in reducing marginalisation and stigmatization of street children in the communities, and increase their chances of subsequent re-integration (Freire, 1985:93)

9.0 FOH organization – Internal Communication

9.1 The communication channels were mostly top-bottom approach, inhibiting any effective contribution and participation, by both the staff and the children, who are the main stakeholders in this institution.

9.2 The researcher recommends that there should be regular consultative meetings in which issues concerning staff and the children should be discussed and quickly addressed.
 through weekly meetings, and performance reviews leading to effective participation by all concerned.

9.3 The secretive administration approach should be stopped and give way to a more friendly, open, consultative and efficient administration. This would attract and not repel would be contributors or donors to the centre.

9.4 The present haphazard communication between the children and the administration should be discouraged and replaced with organised approaches, where the children are taught leadership roles and representative approaches.

Regular meetings should be held with the children, in order to address their concerns and suggestions about their welfare.

9.5 The researcher further recommends that the older children should be considered for sponsorship to attend Survival and Leadership Training Programmes at the Outward Bound Lake School, in Mbala. This rich, sharp and short training programme would make them overcome various challenges, realise their full potential and better prepare them for life in general.

10 External Communication and participation

10.1 Street and vulnerable children's communication with the Government and other stakeholders is poor, mainly due to the bad road infrastructure in the districts and inadequate information flow from Government to the youth in general and the street children in particular.

10.2 Inadequate personnel in Ministries dealing with the plight of the youth and street children, limit the children's participation in National Youth programmes. This has led to poor coordination, networking and fragmented implementation of youth programmes. The Government therefore, should employ an adequate number of trained personnel who should be able to design and implement suitable, effective and well coordinated programmes to deal with the issues of the street and other vulnerable children

10.3 The researcher further recommends that the fundamental principles of the participation theory which emphasise power sharing and control, partnership, transparency, cooperation, responsibility and accountability, should be considered for infusion in all plans and programmes designed to develop street and vulnerable children.

10.4 In order to foster effective economic, political, social and cultural development of the youth the researcher recommends that their participation should not only be highlighted during the Youth Week celebrations, but should be an ongoing process enshrined in their training programmes.

11.0 DRAFT NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY, 2005

11.1 In the 2005 Draft National Youth Policy, the vision contradicts some of the main principles. For instance, "the guaranteed 50% youth employment, 30% youth representation at all levels of decision making in the public sector and where all youth would exercise their rights and obligations, and enjoy equitable opportunity to participate in national development by 2015 regardless of their gender, *ability.....*"

While the main principles state that the policy "also endeavours to promote equal access to social-economic and employment opportunities commensurate with *ability*, potential and needs of all vulnerable youths".

Here, regardless of ability is in direct confrontation with commensurate with ability. It is infact a contradiction in terms. Therefore emphasis should be put on ability rather than regardless of ability so as to encourage qualitative development.

11.2 The question of equal opportunities and equitable distribution of resources is another difficult hurdle to overcome. For the vulnerable and street children to benefit from these dreams, they should be able to attain basic education, obtain suitable technical and professional skills training. With the available financial resources and the low budget. allocations to the youth programmes the goals will not be achieved by 2015 as stated by Government.

11.3 In reference to streetism the policy states that;

> "The Government will endeavour to eliminate streetism by putting in place policies that bring about poverty reduction, economic growth, create employment and skills training."

The question is where are the policies which will create employment by 2015? As for the current skills training programme the Government should go back to the drawing board and come up with feasible and better plans which will address the urgent needs of the young people with particular emphasis on the plight of the street children.

The skills training programme should be properly researched and not based on trial and error ideas, so as to effectively determine the sustainability of the programmes which should take into consideration the children's interests, abilities and the abundant natural resources.

Since the economy is not growing fast enough to accommodate the economic and social needs of the youth, by creating employment and reducing poverty, emphasis by the government and other stakeholders should be put on self-employment based on technically

planned exploitation of the natural resources designed to produce goods and services for local consumption and for export markets.

11.4 We should seriously consider improvement in the status of our economy which should stem from efficient exploitation of our natural resources, increasing and improving capacities to produce goods and services, adding value to our raw materials and efficiently marketing the products locally, to the neighbouring countries and to overseas markets.

Section B

1. The 40 billion Kwacha Youth Empowerment Fund allocated in 2006 may be seen as an election gimmick. The researcher recommends that Government should seriously examine the needs of youths and the street children in particular and allocate appropriate sums of money each year in order to mitigate the plight of street children in Zambia.

2. The street children in Zambia are seen as a potential danger to our society. As a "Time Bomb", to use an expression used by civil servants and politicians or as "imimbulu" That is wild dogs which pounce on unsuspecting prey, in this case the people of Zambia.

The Government should take a different view of these vulnerable children because it is a party to the problem, due to the poor economic management of the country by both civil servants and politicians. The Government should therefore take drastic steps because of the street children's growing numbers, the absence of their human rights, the lack of effective communication between them and the different stakeholders, and their exclusion from participation in the county's economic, political, social and cultural decisions which impinge on their lives.

As mentioned before, the Government and other stakeholders should adequately fund the various programmes intended to assist the youth in general and street children in particular.

It is the researchers' view that the Government of the Republic of Zambia and its people should seriously consider to disengage from donor-based programmes for the vulnerable and street children and synergy their efforts for the 2+2=5 national programmes in order to create sustainable solutions for the beleaguered young people.

3. Therefore, the Government should without delay, organise an INDABA to look into the problems of street children, with representation from various stakeholders to include the street children, traditional rulers, the churches, parliamentarians, civil servants, civil societies and selected number of village representatives from the districts.

6. The proposed programmes of effective communication and participation by the youth in general and the street children in particular, in the economic, political and social affairs of the country, should be implemented sooner than later, so as to empower the young people and give them the opportunity to contribute positively to their country.

7. The communities in which the street children live should be activated and made to appreciate and understand their role in the rehabilitation of the vulnerable street children.

8. Zambians today lack the spirit of patriotism. For the street children and youth programmes to root properly, Government should infuse or imbue the spirit of patriotism in the young citizens for them to be proud of being Zambian, through drama, and different participatory cultural approaches, using oral-media and mass media communication channels.

9. For all these recommendations to be applied properly, effective communication between the street children and the various stakeholders, and the children's participation in the decision making process pertaining to their plight is of primary importance.

12. Summary

This chapter has drawn conclusions from research findings, at the FOH centre, through observations, volunteered information, structured interviews, and focus group discussions. Also from discussions with Government officials and search of Government documents, and newspapers.

The conclusions emphasise the following points:-

12.1. That inspite of insufficient financial resources, the Government of the Republic of Zambia should invest adequate resources in the care and development of young people, in particular the vulnerable street children. "Imiti Ikula Empanga"

12.2 Secondly, that the youth and street children in particular should be empowered economically in wealth creation in order to reduce poverty.

12.3 That the street children empowerment can best be accomplished through networking and effective communication with the various stakeholders and the children's genuine participation in the development programmes of the country.

12.4 That the DNYP vision will have to be revisited and revised, in line with the actual practical possible solutions based on the available finances and the abundant natural resources.

12.5 Also, that the current youth skills training programmes in youth centres and ZNS camps should be critically examined for maximum impact.

12.6 That both academic and technical training should be made available to the vulnerable street children, for better understanding, appreciation of their environment and increased productivity

12.7 That for the various street children's programmes to succeed, and have lasting effects; the children's mind-set should be changed by infusing into them the spirit of hard work, honesty, patriotism and pride as Zambians.

12.8 The underlying point of the findings and recommendations is that for the various ideas and plans designed to alleviate the plight of the street and vulnerable children to succeed, there should be adequate financial resources, effective communication between and among the children and various stakeholders and real participation by the children, who are the intended beneficiaries in all the plans intended for their development.

12.9 The important message in this report is that the discussions, conclusions and recommendations include participatory communication strategies which FOH, Government and other stake holders can use in order to effectively tackle the problem of street children

It is my hope that this study will provoke more research in communication and participatory approaches and concepts, which will benefit the street children, the Government policy makers and the various stakeholders interested in the welfare and development of the vulnerable street children.

APPENDIX I

Questionnaire

The Plight of Street Children and the Need for Effective Communication Between the Street Children / Orphaned Vulnerable Children and Selected Stake Holders

A Case Study at FOH in Lusaka, Zambia

1. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

   i) Family Status   Non orphan   1. ☐   Single orphan   2. ☐

                       Double orphan   3. ☐

   ii) NAME   _____

2. Are you male or female?   Male   1 ☐   Female   2. ☐

3. How old are you?   5 - 9 years old   1 ☐   10 - 14 years old ☐

                   15 -18 years old   3 ☐

4. Are you in School?   Yes   1 ☐   No   2. ☐

5. If yes, at what level are you?

                   Grade 1 - 7   1. ☐   Grade 8 - 9   2. ☐

                   Grade 10 - 12   3. ☐

   Who pays for your education?

                   Father   1. ☐   Mother   2. ☐

                   Other   3. ☐

6. What is your religious denomination?

                   Roman Catholic   1. ☐   Anglican   2. ☐

          United Church of Zambia   3. ☐   Seven Day Adventist   4. ☐

        Reformed Church of Zambia   5. ☐   Salvation Army   6. ☐

                   Pentecostal   7. ☐   Other   8. ☐

7. Do you have a father?   Yes   1. ☐   No   2. ☐

   i) If yes, where does he stay?   1. Misisi ☐   2. Kuku ☐

                               3. Chawama ☐   4. Other ☐

   ii) What does he do?   1. Employed ☐   2. Unemployed ☐

			3.	Other	☐			

8. Do you have a mother? Yes 1. ☐ No 2. ☐

   i) If yes, where does she stay? 1. Misisi ☐ 2. Kuku ☐

                                              3. Chawama ☐ 4. Other ☐

   ii) What does she do? 1. Employed ☐ 2. Unemployed ☐

                                   3. Other ☐

9. Do you have any brothers? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No ☐

   i) If yes, where do they stay? 1. Misisi ☐ 2. Kuku ☐

                                         3. Chawama ☐ 4. Other ☐

   ii) What do they do? 1. Employed ☐ 2. Unemployed ☐

                               3. Other ☐

10. Do you have any sisters? 1. Yes ☐ 2. No. ☐

   i) If yes, where do they stay? 1. Misisi ☐ 2. Kuku ☐

                                         3. Chawama ☐ 4. Other ☐

   ii) What do they do? 1. Employed ☐ 2. Unemployed ☐

                               3. Other ☐

11. Do you have any other relations? Yes 1. ☐ No 2. ☐

   i) If yes, where do they stay? 1. Misisi ☐ 2. Kuku ☐

                                         3. Chawama ☐ 4. Other ☐

   ii) What do they do? 1. Employed ☐ 2. Unemployed ☐

                               3. Other ☐

12. Do the family members help you? Yes 1. ☐ No 2. ☐

   i) If yes, how do they help you? 1. Food ☐ 2. Clothing ☐

                                         3. Money ☐ 4. Other ☐

   ii) Where do you stay? 1. Misisi ☐ 2. Kuku ☐

                                 3. Chawama ☐ 4. Other ☐

   iii) With whom do you stay? 1. Father ☐ 2. Mother ☐

                                     3. Relatives ☐ 4. Friends ☐

13. Have you been on the Street before? Yes 1. ☐ No 2. ☐

   i) If yes where on the street? 1. Trench ☐ 2. Shop Verandah ☐

111

		3.	Bus Stop	☐	4.	Other	☐
ii)	Why on the street?	1.	No Home	☐	2.	Orphan	☐
		3.	Home Problems	☐			

iii) For how long have you been on the street?

| | | 1. | 1 - 2 years | ☐ | 2. | 3 -5 years | ☐ |
| | | 3. | > 5 years | ☐ | | | |

14. Do you live in a Child Care Institution?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    i) If yes how did you come to know about it?   1. Friends ☐   2. Parents ☐

       3. Good Samaritan ☐

    ii) Do you like the institution?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    iii) Do you like the institution?   1. Food ☐   2. Clothing ☐

       3. Shelter ☐   4. Other ☐

SECTION B AILMENTS

15. Have you ever suffered from an STI?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    i) Where did you get the treatment?   1. Clinic ☐   2. Hospital ☐

       3. Traditional Healer ☐

    ii) Have you ever experienced any form of abuse?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    iii) If yes what type of abuse   1. Sexual ☐   2. Verbal ☐

       3. Physical ☐

    iv) If yes who abused you   1. Parents ☐   2. Relatives ☐

       3. Friends ☐   4. Police ☐

       5. Neighbors ☐   6. Others ☐

    v) Do the Police help prevent abuse?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

16. Have you heard of Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT)

    i) How did you hear about it?   1. Television ☐   2. Radio ☐

       3. Work Shop ☐   4. Other ☐

    ii) Would you like to have an HIV/AIDS test?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    iii) Do you have HIV/AIDS?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

    iv) How did you contract it?   1. Unprotected Sex ☐   2. Transfusion ☐

	3. Mother Child	☐	4. Other ☐

v) How can HIV/AIDS be prevented?   1. Abstinence ☐   2. Condoms ☐

3. Faithfulness ☐

vi) Ever lost a friend or relative from HIV/AIDS   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

vii) When did this happen?   1. Last month ☐   2. 2 - 3 years ☐

3. 4 - 5 years ☐

viii) Who helps you with your medical problems?   1. Father ☐   2. Mother ☐

3. F O H ☐   4. Other ☐

17. Have you ever suffered from malaria?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

i) How many times?   1. Once ☐   2. Twice ☐

3. More than Twice ☐

ii) Have you ever used a mosquito net?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

iii) Ever lost a relation or friend from malaria?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

iv) How many?   1. One ☐   2. Two ☐

3. More than two ☐

v) Would you like expert advise on malaria   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

SECTION C - DRUGS

18. Do you take drugs?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

i) What kind of drugs do you take?   1. Dagga ☐   2. Petrol fumes ☐

3. Cocaine ☐   4. other ☐

ii) Why did you start taking drugs?   1. Peer Pressure ☐   2. Frustration ☐

3. Hunger ☐   4. Unemployment ☐

iii) For how long have you been taking drugs?   1. 0 - 1 year ☐   2. 2 - 4 years ☐

3. More than 4 years ☐

iv) Ever heard of Drug Enforcement Commission DEC?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

iv) Would you like to have expert advice from DEC?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

SECTION D

19. **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

i) What is your greatest need?   1. Food ☐   2. clothing ☐

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3. Shelter	☐	4. Schooling ☐
5. Employment	☐	

ii) Whom do you talk to about your problems?

1. Parents	☐	2. Teacher ☐
3. Peers	☐	

iii) Do they help you solve your problems?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

iv) Does the Min. of Youth Sport & Child Devl help?   Yes 1. ☐   No 2. ☐

v) If yes what do they help you with?

1. Food	☐	2. Clothing ☐
3. Shelter	☐	4. Money ☐
5. Employment	☐	6. Other ☐

vi) Do the community members talk to you about your problems?

1. Yes ☐   2. No. ☐

vii) Who helps you with food, clothing and Shelter?

1. Father	☐	2. Mother ☐
3. Fountain of Hope	☐	4. Other ☐

viii) Is Government doing enough to help you?   1. Yes ☐   2. Yes ☐

SECTION E

20. COMMUNICATION

i) How effective is communication with your friends?

1. Poor	☐	2. Fair ☐
3. Good	☐	

ii) How effective is communication with your parents?

1. Poor	☐	2. Fair ☐
3. Good	☐	

iii) Does the Government or other Stakeholders consult you when they decide to design programmes for you?

1. Yes ☐   2. No. ☐

iv) Would you like to be consulted in these matters?

1. Yes ☐   2. No. ☐

vi) Why would you like to be consulted?

_____

21 COMMUNICATION: GOVERNMENT / NGOs

i) Has government informed you about any specific programmes designed to help vulnerable children

1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

ii) How do you get information from Government concerning the mitigation of your problems

_____

iii) Are the communication channels used by the government to contact you effective

1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

iv) Are the communication channels used by NGOs effective?

1. Yes ☐   2. No ☐

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22   PARTICIPATION

i) Have you participated in discussions organised by
Government / NGOs concerning your problems?   1.   Yes   ☐   2.   No   ☐

ii) How many times have you participated in stakeholders
programmes designed to help you?   1   Once   ☐   2.   Two - Three   ☐
                                                                                   Times

                                                      3   >Three Times   ☐

SECTION F

23.   **(COMMUNICATION/PERSONAL)**

What media do you use for Information and Entertainment

Media	Information	Entertainment	Regularly	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Radio						
TV						
Newspaper						
Magazines						
Pamphlets						
Brochures						
Computer						
Posters						
Public Address						
Meetings						
Cinema						
Other						

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APPENDIX II

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

COMMUNICATION/INSTITUTIONS

24.1	What is the government's policy on the plight of the Street Children?
24.2	How effective is the implementation of this policy?
24.3	Which other Stakeholders are involved with the Government in the formulation of the Government Policy on Street Children?
24.4	Are the Street Children involved in the formulation of the policy?
24.5	How much consultation exists between Government and other Stakeholders on matters pertaining to the problems of Street Children? (NGO's, FBO's and CBO's
24.6	How often are the various programmes and interventions for the Street Children monitored and evaluated by the Stakeholders?
24.7	Is there any communication between the Law enforcement officers (Police) and the Street Children?
24.8	Is the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) involved in the prevention of drug abuse by Street Children?
24.9	What programmes have been designed for the Street Children?
24.10	Do the various organisations involved with the problems of HIV/AIDS communicate vital information of prevention, treatment, stigma and care of HIV/AIDS patients?
24.11	Are there any statutes guiding the creation and running of Street Children Care Centres? If these regulations do exist, how effective is the implementation and enforcement of these regulations?
24.12	How often are the various programmes and interventions for the Street Children monitored and evaluated by the Stakeholders?
24.13	How often do Government officers inspect the vulnerable children's care centres?
24.14	Do Government officers check the financial books of the care centres?
24.15	What should the Street Children do in order to improve their living conditions?
24.16	What should the families do to improve the living conditions of the Street Children?
24.17	What should communities do to overcome the problem of Street Children?
24.18	What should other Stake holders do to try and solve the problems of the Street Children?
24.19	What should the Government do to contain the problem of Street Children?
24.20	What do you want to be when you grow up?

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