

**MidlandsState University**



**Faculty of Social Sciences**

**An investigation on the impact of social exclusion of street children on their rights: A case study of Gweru 2015.**

**By**

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Dissertation submitted in Partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Politics and Public Management in the Department of Politics and Public Management

**APPROVAL FORM**

The undersigned certify that they have supervised the student **ArtwellChivandire r114693z** dissertation entitled: **An investigation on the impact of social exclusion of street children on their rights: A case study of Gweru**. submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science in Politics and Public Management Honours Degree at Midlands State University.

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**DECLARATION**

I ArtwellChivandire, Registration Number R114693z do hereby declare that this entire research is a product of my own work. It is being submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Honours Degree in Politics and Public Management, in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Midlands State University.

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## **DEDICATIONS**

This research is dedicated to all the marginalised homeless children, if man has forgotten you God will surely continue to watch over you. I also dedicate this to my late brother Newman Chivandire, may his soul rest in peace. I would also like to dedicate this to my mother Mrs G Chivandire, my brothers and sister for their encouragement and support has seen me this far. Thank you so much.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I thank God for according me the gift of life , guiding and protecting me throughout my entire academic endeavours. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my insightful and resourceful supervisor Mrs J Mudzamiri for without her guidance this research would not have seen its successful completion. Distinguished gratitude goes to my brother Modern Chivandire who has been the pillar of our family since the passing on of our father. I also wish to applaud my family, friends and fellow academic colleagues for their moral support , encouragement and advices.

May God never cease to protect and provide for you all.

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

BEAM	Basic Education Assistance Module
DAAC	District Aids Action Council
DFID	Department For International Development
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HIV	Human Immune Virus
MCHP	Midlands Children Hope Project
NAB	National Association of the Blind
NAC	National Aids Council
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NPA	National Plan of Action
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund

## **ABSTRACT**

*Social exclusion and the phenomenon of street children have been contentious issues in many states around the globe. The research is titled an investigation on the impact of social exclusion of street children on their rights. This research therefore is concerned with elucidating the impact of social exclusion on the rights of street children in Gweru. Street children are alienated from the mainstream society and thus have constrained access to social relations, access to resources and rights available in the society. Their alienation exacerbates their lack of freedom from fear and freedom from want which leaves them in a state of perpetual human insecurity. The fundamental objectives of this research include an understanding of the causes and process of social exclusion, the perceptions of the society towards street children, and the efforts of the government and other stakeholders aimed at alleviating social exclusion and promoting social inclusion that enhances the participation, integration and protection of the rights of street children. The research methodology that is to be used in the research is qualitative research method as this topic requires in depth information on the causes, nature and process of social exclusion and how it adversely impact on the rights of street children. This research is built upon the theory of social exclusion which denotes the alienation of individuals from the mainstream society thereby crippling their ability to participate fully and effectively in social, economic, cultural and political life.*

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## **RELEASE FORM**

**NAME OF STUDENT:** ArtwellChivandire

**DISSERTATION TITLE:** An investigation on the impact of social exclusion of Street children on their rights. Case study of Gweru.

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## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The first chapter of this study presents a discussion of the background of the study. The chapter also contains an overview of the statement of the problem, justification of the study, its aim and objectives.

### **1.1 Background of the study**

Street children have constrained access to social relations, resources and rights around the world and are viewed as social outcasts by most people. Indeed street children are children living in the state of nature absent any sense of human security. They are alienated from mainstream society and in most cases their rights have become non-existent which means for them children's rights are just a rhetoric. These children are being excluded from the policies that benefit other children who live in a normal family environment. The reasons why these children end up on the streets vary due to the fact that these children also have distinct backgrounds. As noted by Flowers (2010) some of the reasons accounting for this phenomena are severe economic distress, family breakdown, abusive home environment, disobedience and even mental health problems. Once on the street life becomes synonymous with that in the state of nature summed up by Thomas Hobbes as "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short". These children are excluded from social programmes and policies and live as outcasts. For most of these street children, drug addiction, hunger, malnutrition, prostitution, crimes, sexually transmitted diseases, sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy becomes their everyday challenges with no one to remedy their plight.

Smith (1776) understood that the freedom to live non-impooverished lives is enhanced when one has the capacity to appear in public without shame. It is the identity, homelessness, lack of access to basic necessities and the attitude of society as well as lack of all-inclusive policies that drives street children to the periphery of society. As observed by Sen (1999) social exclusion is also inseparable from capability poverty when one is excluded from social relations. While some perhaps consider the social exclusion of street children as a never ending problem, it is definitely a phenomenon that reflects a rotten societal system that can never be adequately analysed from an individual perspective. Aristotle in his *Nicomachean Ethics*, highlighted that an impooverished life is when one lacks the capacity to indulge in essential activities which one has reason to undertake. It is clear enough to understand that

the social exclusion of street poses serious threats not only to the lives of the excluded children but to the general well-being of the whole society.

UNICEF has defined street children as children under the age of 18 years who permanently live on the street without family support or any supervision and therefore are effectively removed from participating in societal activities, from accessing resources and their rights become non-existent . Children on the street are a clear signal of economic hardships and will be trying to assist their families and sometimes they end up permanently living on the street if their predicaments at home persist. Children of the street are sometimes those who have been orphaned, abused, rejected, abandoned, and neglected while others are simply runaways, disobedient, and mentally dysfunctional children. The main focus of this study is on the children of the street.

Ndlovu (2014) writing for ZIMeye noted that the population of street children in the city of progress, Gweru, was rising each day. The Gweru District AIDS Action Council (DAAC) blames the AIDS pandemic for the rising figures and approximated the number the total population to be between 80-100. Some of the street children are as young as six years old , but most are aged between 10-17. Belinda Musesemwa from the National Association of the Blind people attributed domestic and gender based to violence the escalation of cases of street kids in Gweru. The Midlands Children Hope Project (MCHP) , an NGO based in Gweru has made it its core business to provide accommodation, food , rehabilitative services and cover the street children's educational funds as a basis integration, enhancing participation and promotion of rights and opportunities that create a better future for the street children who are viewed as thieves and criminals thereby promoting the inclusion of homeless children.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This research seeks to investigate the impact of social exclusion on the rights of street children and how it undermines aspects of their human security. Street children have constrained access to social relations, resources and rights available in the society and their life is a modern reflection of life in the state of nature described by one famous scholar as

‘solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short’’. These children are excluded from the social relations, policies and services that benefit other children who grow up in a normal family environment. Street children are deprived of several social services such as education, health, economic empowerment, religious and cultural socialisation. The realisation of the children’s rights of street children remains a mere rhetoric. In this respect, this study seeks to examine the causes ,nature and effects of the social exclusion on the rights of the excluded group under study.

### **1.3 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Street children** – according to UNICEF these are homeless children under the age of 18 years who live on the street of a city without supervision or protection.

**Social exclusion-** is when an individual or group is relegated to the periphery of society where they do not enjoy the resources , rights and opportunities that are available in a society.

**Social inclusion-** is the participation of all individuals in the economic, political , social and cultural institutions of a society. The World bank has noted that social inclusion empowers poor and marginalised individuals and groups to exploit opportunities available in a society.

**Deprivation-** it the lack of basic necessities that sustain an individual’s life.

**Human security-** an all-encompassing condition in which people and communities live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the activities of their societies, enjoy the protection of fundamental rights, have access to resources and basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and well being.

**Insecurity-** it is the lack of confidence and protection which makes one to live in fear.

**Social Equality-**according to Russell (2008) Social equality entails ” the absence of legally enforced social class or cast boundaries and the absence of discrimination motivated by an inalienable part of a person's identity”

## **1.4 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Aim of the study**

The aim of this research is to investigate the causes, nature and effects of the social exclusion of street kids in Gweru .

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this study are;

- 1) To examine the causes, process and nature of social exclusion of street children.
- 2) To examine the perceptions of society towards street children.
- 3) To examine the effects of social exclusion for both the society and the socially excluded children.
- 4) To examine the extent to which the government of Zimbabwe has tried to alleviate social exclusion of the group under study.
- 5) To find out the roles that can be played by local authorities, civil society, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and the society at large to alleviate social exclusion and its effects.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- 1) What are the causes of social exclusion of street children?
- 2) What is the perception of the society towards street children?
- 3) What are the effects of social exclusion for both the society and the excluded children?
- 4) What policies has the government of Zimbabwe introduced to alleviate social exclusion and promote inclusion?
- 5) What are the roles that can be played by local authorities, civil society, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and the society at large to alleviate social exclusion and promote social inclusion?

## **1.6 LIMITATIONS.OF THE STUDY**

- The research is to be carried out in Gweru and the street children are mobile making it difficult to head count them and come up with their actual population. The population of the street children will thus be approximations.
- It is possible that the researcher might experience resistance from the street kids who might be unwilling to disclose much and truthful information about themselves.
- The street kids may demand money or any other form of incentives from the research for them to participate in the research.
- Some of the street kids may give false information to invoke sympathy from the researcher.
- Other key informants may give false information in order to protect their image.

## **1.7 DELIMITATIONS**

- The research is to be carried out in the city of Gweru, Zimbabwe only.
- The literature covering the study will be extracted from books in the university library, internet articles, journals, other past researches, newspapers and other sources.
- Study participants and key informants will include street children in Gweru CBD, residents of Gweru, government ministries, Gweru City Council, police, authorities at Gweru Provincial Hospital, Faith Based Organisations and NGOs

## **1.8 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY**

While this research will cover the gap left by other researchers , it seeks to bring attention on the social exclusion of the street children who live a life synonymous to that in the state of nature and how it hinders the realisation of their rights, how it exacerbates constrained access to resources and inability to participate in essential social activities . It important to stress the fact that street children are still children who deserve to enjoy the same rights just as all other children in the society. The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No 20) under section 19 (1) stresses the fact that “the state must adopt policies and measures to ensure that in matters relating to children, the best interest of the children concerned are paramount”’. It is the concern of this study to examine the extent to which street children have been excluded. Evidence abound that for street children the aspect of rights is just a rhetoric despite the fact



that policies have been formulated targeting the group under study but never produced the intended results due to poor implementation. Street children generally receive limited attention except only if its negative publicity concerning their asocial and criminal activities. The society trivialises the plight of street kids and has adopted negative attitude and ignorance that has also been worsened by economic distress. Street kids are a reflection of the rotten societal systems that neglects and tramples upon the children's rights of this marginalised group hence they desire adequate recognition and attention .

This research thus finds motivation from the need to uncover the causes , effects and possible approaches to alleviate social exclusion of street children. The concept of social exclusion in relation to street children seeks to divorce the negative attitude and tendency of society to blame the victim by propagating for holistic and all-encompassing approach that can promote an all inclusive society irrespective of identity or location. People need to be aware from a local level the implications and consequences of relegating street children to the fringe of society. The study reveals how social marginalisation affects street children , the general society and the nation at large.

It is the purpose of this research to gather information that will aid policy makers , concerned stakeholders and the general society to make a head way in alleviating the plight of street children.

### **1.9 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The research has accorded the student an opportunity to acquire requisite research skills and experience. The research will enrich the student with vast and broad knowledge on the subject matter under study. The information gathered will help to raise society's concern and appreciation of social exclusion and the plight of street children. The research will propose and recommend possible approaches and solutions to remedy social marginalisation and promote social inclusion of street children. The core objective of this study is to uncover the causes, nature and implications of social exclusion and to advocate the elimination of all forms social marginality and promote social inclusion.

### **1.10 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

A number of scholars have engaged in the discourse of social exclusion , a term which is understood to have been coined by Lenoir (1974). This research is guided by the social exclusion theory. The social exclusion denotes the lack of resources, services and power by

the marginalised group or individual. According to Duffy (1995) social exclusion involves being distanced from the mainstream society, the inability of individuals to participate fully and effectively in social, economic, cultural and political life. Muddiman (1990:2) assert that the theory of social exclusion denotes disempowerment and alienation. Street children are relegated to the periphery of society where they hardly receive any attention or protection. They live as outcasts and are rarely included in policies and programmes that benefit mainstream society.

Roberts (1997) observed that social exclusion contributes to structural separation and cultural distinction between the mainstream society and the marginalised group. Street kids lack resources to realise their potential hence they have little control over their lives. They are isolated, stigmatised and victimised by society. As a result they are usually hopeless, have a low self esteem and have no confidence about their future.

Sometimes policy makers, local authorities and the society at large exercise undue ignorance to the plight of street kids. The policy makers would treat such matters as issues of low politics and of little significance. They tend to forget that the government has the obligation to ensure that all individuals in a society ought to benefit from the policies irrespective of their social class. Local authorities also experience severe economic and financial constraints that they can hardly pay attention to these marginalised street kids. Some sections of the society also tend to adopt negative attitudes towards street kids blaming them for their present condition of social marginality.

It is important to note that social exclusion leaves the street kids with no protection and supervision. This leaves them vulnerable to abuse and other asocial behaviours such as crime and prostitution. Whereas the society can exercise ignorance and relegate these children to the fringe of society, the effects of such marginalisation will not only worsen the plight of these kids but the whole society suffers from the indignity of this phenomenon and the consequences attached to it. As a result it is necessary to initiate positive approaches that can alleviate social exclusion through coordinated efforts of the government, local authorities, NGO's, FBO's, the society and other concerned stakeholders.

## **1.11 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY**

The research is contained in five chapters. Chapter 2 gives an overview of the theoretical framework and presents the literature review on the phenomenon of street kids and their social marginalisation. The research methodology is dealt with in chapter 3. Chapter 4 is a presentation of the data, its analysis and discussion of the outcome. The conclusion and recommendations are contained in chapter 5.

## **1.12 CONCLUSION**

This chapter presents the background of the social marginalisation of street kids, statement of the problem, justification, objectives, ethics, the theory guiding the research and the inherent limitations and delimitations of the study. This chapter also consists of the general breakdown or organisation of the whole dissertation.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter explains the causes, process and nature of social exclusion of street children. The chapter also presents the challenges faced by street kids, effects of social exclusion and how street kids have responded and adapted to social exclusion. The chapter also examines the government's approach and mitigation strategies to the plight of street kids as well as the efforts made by NGOs, FBOs, the local authority and individuals.

### **2.1 STREET CHILDREN**

Unicef has adopted the definition that street children are children under the age of 18 years who live on the streets without supervision or protection. These children have little, minimal or no contact with their family. According to the United Nations these children have also been considered vagrants and juvenile delinquents. Several scholars have engaged in the discussion of the phenomenon of street children. As noted by Kopoka (2000) the problem of street children is an urban crisis that reflects the problems of urbanisation. This is further supported by Masuka et al (2012:59) who asserted that problems of urbanisation have destroyed the traditional community structures of child support. Existing literature has shown that it is difficult to aggregate the population of street children. This is further supported by Ferguson who highlighted the fact that the existing population data on street children are generally estimations. In the streets the children are alienated, separated and excluded from the resources and activities in the main stream society. There are several factors that drive children into the streets.

### **2.2 FACTORS THAT DRIVES CHILDREN INTO THE STREETS**

Several factors have been noted as driving children into the streets. Mushunje (2006) noted that many families fail to protect their children due to constrained access to resources. Some of the notable causes include severe economic distress, family breakdown, abuse, abandonment, peer pressure and the desire for independence and autonomy. The stories and backgrounds of street children are distinct and each child always has a unique story and as such no single factor can be attributed to the ascendance of children into the street. It is always a combination of multiple factors all rooted in the rotten systems of a society that

push children into the streets. Under normal circumstances all children desire to live in a caring family environment that adequately provides basic necessities, protection , guidance and supervision.

Boakye-Boaten (2006) observed that political instability and economic mismanagement erodes the social fabric. Economic problems in a state contribute to severe economic constraints in society thereby affecting and crippling the ability of parents and guardians to adequately provide adequate basic necessities for children. The rising statics of unemployment have profound effect on the manner in which families provide food , shelter , education ,clothing and other needs of a child. When the situation at home becomes unbearable and persist for a long time the fabric that hold the family together is corroded children can move into the streets in search of what they are missing at home. It is clear that most people are unemployed in Zimbabwe and are finding it difficult to take care of their families. It justifiable to assert that there is a probable link between the rising number of unemployment and the rising number of street children.

Family breakdown has also been noted as pushing children into the streets. Economic problems and HIV/Aids have had devastating effects on the family institution. According to the National AIDS Council , NAC (2011) orphans in Zimbabwe are more than one million yet and only a few are receiving external help. According to Mupedziswa (2006) the population of orphans and vulnerable children continue to rise to unprecedented levels. Some parents have moved to neighbouring countries in search of employment leaving the children alone or in the care of relatives. Some children have also been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. This exposes children to multiple problems at a tender age which most children can not cope with. As a result children can resort to living on the streets when the is no other alternative source of salvation.

There are also certain family environments which are purely unbearable torture chambers for a child . Child abuse is another push factor that drives children into the streets. This abuse can either be physical or psychological perpetrated by relatives or guardians of an orphaned child though this abuse can also be perpetrated by real parents. Traditions such as ‘‘chimutsamapfiwa’’ have to be taken as another form of abuse that drives children into the streets. This is also similar to child marriages mainly blamed on the apostolic sects such as in Marange, Zimbabwe. While the family is supposed to offer a child protection and supervision, some children actually need to be protected against abusive relatives and parents.

Mushunje (2006) noted that children are central to society ,giving credence to the fact that they ought to be protected.

The factors that push street children into the streets are not always detached from the individual under study. According to Dybicz (2005) sometimes the prospect of freedom and independence pulls children into the street away from abusive or poverty ridden homes. Some children fall to peer pressure and the desire for independence and autonomy. Some children generally lack discipline and pay no regard to the guidance of their guardians or parents. They regard the supervision and protection they receive at home as enslavement and therefore long for their independence and autonomy. These children with unstable psychology would easily fall into peer pressure from like-minded peers and end up living in the streets. However it is important to note that no child would opt to live in the streets begging and scavenging if the family provided care and not abuse. As such it is always a combination of multiple factors that drives children into the streets though other scholars like Masuka et al (2012:60) attributes the problem to economic meltdown and the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

### **2.3 SOCIETY, SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND STREET CHILDREN**

Society is found on the precepts of the social contract and as such it becomes questionable as to how individuals should respond to a situation which has subjected them to life synonymous to that in the state of nature, and where the state has failed to establish an all-inclusive society.. A society where everyone enjoys and accesses the social relations, resources and rights offered within the state. Classes abound in society which enjoy varying degrees of participation, access to resources and enjoyment of rights. While people naturally align themselves to groups sharing common believes and ethics, there are certain groups that have arisen in the society as a result of inherent societal miscarriages. The term ‘street children’ seems pejorative for no child is born of the street but these are just children without homes driven into the street by adverse circumstances .

The society generally alienates street children and view them as social misfits , criminals and prostitutes. The society tend to blame the street children for their fate. Most people distance themselves from street children and treat them as outcasts. . As noted by Ferguson ( 2006:707) it is true that street children are exposed to crime and prostitution. However the society tend to ignore the fact that all individuals are shaped by the environment in which they live. Some people treat street children as a special of vulnerable children in need of

greater assistance and inclusion. Others tend to take their vulnerability as a loophole to abuse and exploit them. Mella (2012) discusses the economic exploitation of street children due to their vulnerability. Others fear street children due to the myth that street children are social misfits and drug addicts. The situation is further worsened by the media reports that excessively focuses on the negative aspects of the street children. The focus is barely on myriad of disadvantages faced by street children.

Various scholars have noted the tendency by society to view the problems faced by marginalised groups as attached to the inherent nature of the people facing the problems. Ryan (1976) calls this negative attitude “blaming the victim” phenomenon. According to Azar (1999) there is a “culture of blame” in the society which contributes to further marginalisation of street children. As such street children are further isolated by society when it fails to comprehend the fact that these children are already victims and are in need of social inclusion. People fail to understand that the very presence of homeless children in the society is evidence of a rotten social fabric that need to be redressed.

## **2.4 CONCEPT, NATURE AND PROCESS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

According to Walker and Walker (1997:8) “social exclusion is a process by which people are shut out, fully or partially, from any of the social, economic, political or cultural systems which determine the social integration of a person in society”. The causes of the social exclusion of street children are connected with spatial, capability and identity factors. Peace (2001:23) noted “social isolation, geographical isolation, loneliness from family and community and the sense of being forgotten” as accentuating social exclusion. Stephan Klasen also hinted at the fact that participation of individuals in the society is attributed to proximity, mobility and relationships that foster networks. As such location, through physical and social distance from mainstream society inherently exacerbates social exclusion. Social exclusion can arise as a result of low or no income, lack of access to employment, and constrained or restricted access to social services. As a process social marginalisation denotes the restriction for certain individuals or groups to engage in societal activities enjoyed by other people.

Sen (1999) has adopted the capability approach to the discussion of social exclusion. The capability approach alludes to the notion that when and where individuals lack access to

basic capabilities that relates to their good health, food, integration into the society and self respect would mean that these individuals have been excluded. In his discussion of social exclusion, Diaz (2010) also presents ‘‘lack of participation(processes) in inclusive social outcomes and those stressing accumulated disadvantages (outputs)’’. A rights based approach to the discussion of social exclusion is presented by Room (1995) and Roche (1997) who all noted that social exclusion when individuals are denied or fail to realise their civil, political and social rights of citizenship. This in turn alludes to the fact that street children are overly socially excluded as they hardly enjoy any of the children’s enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the constitution of Zimbabwe.

The integration and participation of individuals in mainstream societal activities denotes their level of exclusion or inclusion. This is also supported by Barry (2002:23) who observed that participation determines those who are socially excluded and those who are not. Berghman (1995) has contributed to the discussion of social exclusion by asserting civil, economic and social integration as critical in assessing social exclusion. This means that social exclusion is a multidimensional concept that captures issues beyond poverty or a mere lack of income. According to Walker (1997) the rights language in the discussion of social exclusion invokes the much needed role of society to ensure the participation and integration of everyone in the society.

Townsend (1997) pointed out the role of political , economic and social policies and arrangements in promoting exclusion. This is further supported by Gareth(2005) who noted that government policies can exacerbate or reduce social exclusion. While street children are not being deliberately being excluded , they are nevertheless a marginalised group that lives as outcasts outside the mainstream society. This is explained by Riga (2007) as the process when individuals are not fully integrated to fully participate in economic ,social and cultural life due to the constraints of poverty, lack of education ,location and discrimination. The socially excluded children are thus unable to exercise their rights to gain adequate essential services and goods.

Poverty has had profound effect in perpetuating the social exclusion of street kids. It can be rightfully asserted that parents and guardians’ lack of resources facilitate and contribute to the marginalisation of their children. For instance children are pushed into the streets due to severe economic distress at home. Schools also contribute to social marginalisation as they sometimes expel children who fails to pay their fees. It has clear that very few employers are



willing to employ youth who have unclear backgrounds such as street kids and as such these employers restrict street kids from the labour market . Economic and financial constraints bedevilling the government, both at local and national level, makes it difficult for them to adequately provide services such as health, education and housing and this in turn exacerbates the exclusion of street kids.

It has been noted that social exclusion is when individuals, groups or communities are excluded from mainstream social relations and institutions thereby hindering their participation in mainstream societal activities and programmes. According to Kopoka (2000) abuse, poverty, family breakdown are among the reasons that force children into the street . In the street the children are excluded from the educational, health, developmental and other social services and activities engaged in by other children in the society. Boyden (1991) noted that street kids suffer extreme marginalisation that cause them to have a lot of instability and insecurity.

According to Dybicz (2005) sometimes the prospect of freedom and independence pulls children into the street away from abusive or poverty ridden homes. These children form groups that offer them friendship. Boakye-Boaten (2006) observed that political instability and economic mismanagement can further social marginalisation of street kids. Flowers (2010) also relates the phenomenon of street kids to economic distress and social disruption. It is clear that evidence abound that the causes of this phenomenon are varied.

Silver (1995:63) noted that socially marginalised groups are excluded from employment, housing, education, skills, citizenship, and democratic participation. The discourse is further broadened by Sen (2000:3) asserting that social exclusion is inseparable with poverty and deprivation. Leonard (1984:181) asserted the fact that street kids remain outside the capitalist production hence their continued involuntary social marginality. It is evident this creates perpetual negative and non-supportive relationships that prevents street children from participating in the mainstream social life and hinders the realisation of their potential.

Benitez (2009) asserted that children of the streets are inadequately protected or supervised. They have been relegated to the periphery of society where they live as social outcasts. The plight of street kids is further worsened by society's negative attitude. Rurevo and Boundillon (2003) observed that most female street kids are viewed as prostitutes while their male counterparts are perceived as criminals. This contributes to further stigmatisation and isolation. As noted by Ferguson (2006:707) it is true that street children are exposed to crime and prostitution. Barker and Fontes (1996) also noted that the category and level of risks faced by children differ according to the extent of their disconnection from family and society.

Volpi (2002:3) acknowledged the fact that street children face a various challenges and risks as a result of being disconnected from family and society. Lugala and Mbwambo (1996) observed that the risks faced by street kids are as a result of loneliness, lack of supervision, shelter, family contact or care. The situation is even worse for the girls. Ngulube (2010:58) noted greater risk and the lack of sanitary facilities for the girls .it is interesting to note that street kids face the risk of sexual abuse and sodomy from some members of the society. This exposes them to traumatic experience and sexually transmitted diseases yet they are excluded from health services. This makes street children even carriers of diseases that are bedevilling. Kopoka (2000:15) cited Makambara (1999) who asserted that street children are a special group in need of special attention and protection.

Various scholars have noted the tendency by society to view the problems faced by marginalised groups as attached to the inherent nature of the people facing the problems. Ryan (1976) calls this negative attitude "blaming the victim" phenomenon. According to Azar (1999) there is a "culture of blame" in the society which contributes to the marginalisation of street kids. As such street children are further isolated by society when it fails to comprehend the fact that these children are already victims and are in need of social inclusion.

## **2.5 ACTIVITIES ENGAGED IN BY STREET CHILDREN**

Street children engage in a variety of activities while in the streets. These activities range from begging, scavenging , washing cars , selling drugs, stealing and prostitution. Their activities are a mixture of positive and negative aspects. In Gweru most street children are concentrated near Moonlight Building in Fifth street where they wash cars , beg for food and

‘‘2 rands’’, and sometimes play ‘‘njuga’’ or ‘‘makasi’’ among themselves. However nowadays it is difficult for them to wash cars in the streets because of the ever presence of Municipal Police collecting revenue from parking motorists .

Street children also sell drugs behind N-Richards wholesale. Evidence suggest that they sell marijuana for a commission since they are being used by some scrupulous individuals. There are people in the society who are using street children to sell marijuana so as to avoid the police themselves. They also sell bronco which indicate the fact that there are people in the society who actually supply and use these children as their sales agents. This then exposes the street children to drug abuse. Some residents of Gweru have also reported to have fallen prey to street children who rob them of their groceries and money.

It has also been noted that street children engage in sexual activities among themselves . It is common for these children to engage in unprotected sex thereby enhancing health risks. The vulnerability of street children exposes them to anti social behaviour such prostitution. It is believed that some female street children roam around city clubs at night calling for sex for one dollar. There are people in the society who take advantage these desperate children and abuse them.

## **2.6 EFFECTS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

There are a number of effects and consequences that result from social exclusion. According to Gareth (2005) social exclusion impedes efforts to achieve millennium development goals. Social exclusion drives the marginalised group into prolonged poverty. This poverty is exacerbated be the excluded group does not have access to resources that are available in the society. These people do not enjoy the same rights and the same opportunities as other members. Their constrained and restrained access to resources and services leaves them at the mercy of nature.

Social exclusion has adverse effects upon the psychological well-being of the excluded individual. People who are excluded have a low-self esteem, have no confidence about their life and are always feeling insecure. Gareth (2005) noted that alienated young people resort to violence and crime to feel more powerful. The excluded group feels already unwanted or

appreciated by the society and this tends to affect the way they view morality and societal ethics.

Social exclusion can also promote lack of sufficient social integration. This means that the excluded group has no link to social networks. The excluded group is not exposed to the norms and values that shape the behaviour of others in the mainstream society. This makes the excluded group an isolated pack burdened by shame, lack of confidence and insecurity which then promote delinquent behaviour. The existence of a hopeless, homeless and insecure group poses serious threats to the well being of the society.

## **2.7 STREET CHILDREN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

The constitution of Zimbabwe , Children's Act 5:06 and the Zimbabwe children's charter enshrines the fundamental rights that ought to be accessed and enjoyed by all children in Zimbabwe. These rights as enshrined in the constitution of Zimbabwe include the right to education (sec27 and 75), shelter (sec 28), health (sec29 and 76), right to food and water (77) and rights of children (sec 81). The Zimbabwe Children's charter expresses the aspirations and expectations as quality education, health, safety, care, protection, equality, identity, access to justice, promotion of talent for all regardless of location, background ,status, sex or religion. Thus the social marginalisation of street kids infringes upon their rights and requires lasting remedies.

**Shelter** – street children are homeless children being deprived of shelter, a fundamental human right enshrined under section 28 and 81(f) of the constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No 20). The realisation of this remains a mere dream for most of the street kids. In Gweru these kids sometimes use a disused building near Moonlight Building along Fifth street. This is however a territory of the mighty as many are left in the street with absolutely no shelter even during the rain season and the infamous severe winters experienced in the midlands capital.

**Food and water-** section 77 of the constitution enshrines the right to food and water but in reality street children constantly face starvation and malnutrition. When they get the food it is mostly left-over food which they pick from bins at Chicken-inn , Food Express, dumping site at TM bus terminus and other parts of the city . They overly rely on begging and

scavenging to survive and sometimes fight among themselves over the control of such sites and the little that they get .

**Education-** section 27 and 87 of the constitution provides for the provision of the right to education as also expressed by the Zimbabwe children's charter and the Dakar declaration on Education 2006. Basically all these legislative frameworks aspire for quality education for all children of Zimbabwe regardless of background , location or status. However sometimes children on the street will have been expelled from school for failing to pay tuition fees. The government has failed to provide funds to cater for such as a result social marginalisation is creating an illiterate reserve that will forever haunt the society and the nation at large.

**Health-** street children rarely receive any medical attention yet they are at a greater risk of contracting and spreading all forms of diseases. These children are vulnerable to sexual abuse and sexual misdemeanours among themselves and are at risk of contracting HIV, STIs, and other diseases associated with non-hygienic environment. This makes street kids carriers of all forms of diseases which can easily be spread across society. Thus street kids require special attention yet they continue to be marginalised. The Zimbabwe children's Charter wants the government to prioritise children's health in line with the Abuja Declaration of 2005.

**Safety, care and protection** – all children generally require a safe environment in which they receive adequate care and protection in order for them to maximise opportunities and to realise their potential. Street kids receive no supervision or protection .this leaves them vulnerable to all forms of abuse and anti social behaviour. When the police are involved in their cases they further harass these children instead of assisting and rehabilitating them. Some of the street kids would have ran away from abusive homes, harmful traditional and faith practices such as child marriages .

**Identity** - most street kids do not have any identity documents such as birth certificates, national identity card or passport. Lack of these essential documents prohibits these children from accessing basic education, health care, their inheritance and other social benefits enjoyed by children in the society. Thus clearly street children are treated as unknown social outcasts.

**Access to justice-** street kids are only involved in the justice system when they are the ones facing the wrath of the law , rarely do they receive a redress of the injustices they suffer at the

hands of the society. They are also victims of abuse and even of the justice system. Police handling their cases treat them as criminals , drug addicts and prostitutes thereby perpetuating the victimisation and marginalisation of these children.

**Equality, no-discrimination and participation-** street kids are treated as outcasts whose opinions are less appreciated or heard. These children also want to exercise their right to participation so that their opinions are heard and integrated at all decision making levels.

## **2.8 THE CIVIL SOCIETY, NGOS AND FBOS AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

The Department For International Development , DFID (2005) observed that social exclusion can be alleviated through the coordinated efforts of the civil society , NGOs and the government. The civil society need to influence policies that are formulated and ensure that they cater for the needs of everyone including the voiceless and powerless marginalised group. The civil society need to promote behaviour and attitude changes in order to tackle prejudice and exclusion. The media has played an instrumental role in magnifying the negative aspects of street children , as such it should again play an essential role in promoting an all inclusive society. There is need for awareness campaigns that de-mystifies the stereotypical negative views that abound in society concerning street children.

It is of particular importance to note that Zimbabwe is largely a Christian community and as such the rising number of Faith Based Organisations should add meaningful significance in alleviating social exclusion . These FBOs should adopt a moral and social obligation that focus on the plight of excluded groups. There is need for FBOs to supplement their religious doctrines through real practical work that promotes social inclusion.

NGOs have an equally important role to play in alleviating social exclusion. The Midlands Children Hope Centre has taken a leading role in promoting the social inclusion of street children by providing accommodation , food , clothing and education funds for selected street children in Gweru. NGOs need to ensure that their projects and programmes target marginalised groups such as street children who are not only vulnerable and excluded , but voiceless and powerless as well. There is need to fund policies that promote social inclusion.

## **2.9 GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND STREET CHILDREN**

The constitution of Zimbabwe rhetorically emphasises the need to prioritise the protection of children and children's rights but efforts alleviate social exclusion of street children and protection of their rights have proved to be a monumental task. The Department for International Development, DFID (2005:9) identified four key ways in which the government can promote social inclusion. These are legal and policy frameworks, public expenditure specifically targeting excluded groups, enhanced economic opportunities and promotion of political participation by everyone in the society. However it should be taken into account that policies have in the past been formulated addressing issues of concern for vulnerable children but have not produced the desired goals. This simply means that there is need to ensure that the policies are not just a rhetoric but a living reality.

According to Unicef and GoZ (2010:1) ‘‘ the future of Africa lies with the well being of its children and youth..... investment in children is tomorrow's peace, stability , security , democracy and sustainable development’’. The Zimbabwean government has launched several initiatives, legislation and policies aimed at supporting marginalised children like street kids but progress has however been hindered due to lack of resources. According to Bransen et al. (2001) a vulnerable person is one who is incapable of accessing the basic necessities of life. The National Plan of Action for orphans and other Vulnerable Children was launched in 2004 with the aim of supporting these children with basic services. To show its commitment to the welfare of children, Zimbabwe has signed several regional and international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the Child (1999). All these were efforts aimed at uplifting the welfare of all children in Zimbabwe including street kids.

Some of the legislation that aims at promoting the welfare and non-discrimination of children including street kids are the Children's protection and Adoption Act , the Guardianship of Minors Act and the Maintenance Act. These pieces of legislation were further complemented by policies such as the National Orphan Care Policy, National Plan Of Action and the National AIDS policy. The government launched several programmes that targeted vulnerable children that included the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), Public Work Fund , Public Assistance Fund ,Assisted Medical Treatment Order and Drought Relief among many others. The government also launched what was termed the National Strategy

on Children in Difficult Circumstances which aimed at reaching children in difficult circumstances in the community by providing resources to local authorities.

Most of the above noted policies and programmes failed to produce the desired progress and results due to several reasons. Economic constraints and lack of resources have hindered the realisation of the intended objectives underlying the formulation of the mentioned policies and programmes. Several times the government has been failing even to pay the civil servants hence one is justified to assert that street children can hardly be remembered under such circumstances even though the government has a well defined legislative and policy framework

## **2.10 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter reviewed existing literature on the study of street children and the concept of social exclusion. The chapter also presented the underlying causes, process and effects of social exclusion. The roles of the civil society and NGOs in alleviating social exclusion have also been highlighted. Street children and the children's rights were also discussed together with the efforts made by the government of Zimbabwe.



## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the various methods that were used in this study as well as the reasons why they were chosen. Rajasekar (2013:5) noted that research methodology entails the procedures by which the researcher describe, explain and predict a phenomenon. This chapter explains the study location, study population, research design, the procedure of sampling data and the instruments that were used to collect data in this study. The chapter also explains and describe data was analysed.

### **3.1 The Study Location**

The research was conducted in the city of Gweru , in the central business district where most of the street kids are found and in mkoba where some rehabilitated street kids are housed at midlands children hope centre. The researcher noted that most of the street kids play around the Moonlight Building in fifth street, in the recreational park around the municipal building and also behind N-Richards wholesale. The noted places are where the street kids are always found and most frequent though they roam the whole town day and night. The Midlands Children Hope Centre was also visited by the researcher because it is home for former street kids so key informants were also interviewed there.

### **3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This study made use of the qualitative methodology because of its descriptive nature.

#### **Qualitative Methodology**

The study engaged made use of qualitative methods . According to Mcdonald and Headlam (2011) “qualitative methods attempt to gain an understanding of the underlying reasons and motivations for actions...providing insights into the setting of the problem and generating ideas .” It is difficult to assemble street children, aggregate and analyse them as a group. The researcher engaged the street children through in-depth interviews and dialogue to extract their various accounts for their situation. The information extracted is presented in chapter four.

### **3.3 TARGET POPULATION**

The population under study constitutes homeless children under the age of 18 years who live in the street of Gweru. These share a common plight of being socially excluded from enjoying their rights, participating in activities in the main stream society and experience constrained access to essential services. This study concerned itself with street children who live as outcasts in the streets of Gweru whose population is estimated to be between 85-100 . Diaz(2010) has asserted that homelessness constitute severe social exclusion. As such this study is concerned with homeless children living in the streets of Gweru.

#### **Key Informants**

A total of 15 key informants were identified and chosen to participate in the study. Five of these were derived from the Midlands Children Hope Centre , five were female street children and the other five were male street children who were all interviewed and narrated their stories.

### **3.4 SAMPLING**

Due to the limitations of time, mobility of streets children and resources it becomes an arduous task to involve the whole target population under study. There a sample of the population was selected from the identified street children. The researcher identified 57 street children out of the approximated 85 street children in Gweru. Out of the 57 identified the researcher selected and purposively sampled 10 boys and 5 girls for in-depth interviews. Five former street children from the Midlands Children Hope Centre were also selected.

### **3.5 Types of sampling techniques used in the research**

#### **Purposive Sampling**

The purposive sampling technique guarantees flexibility in the manner in which the researcher chooses the respondents. The researcher handpicked the respondents from a pool of identified street children. These were chosen for their willingness to participate and share their knowledge regarding the subject matter under study. The information sought by the researcher concerned the participants' experience in the streets and how they understood social exclusion.

Purposive sampling technique was also used to select a variety of key informants from government ministries , NGOs, FBOs and members of the community. These included individuals who possessed relevant knowledge and who willing to share their understanding of the subject matter. The researcher provided questionnaires to appropriate individuals in order to quickly acquire relevant information that sheds light on the subject matter. Though the information gathered might not represent the views and opinions of everyone it surely guarantees in-depth understanding of the subject matter.

### **3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS**

In order to effectively extract and obtain relevant information from respondents the researcher has to come up with practical tools easily understood by the participants. These instruments have to ensure that information to be obtained relates to the problem under study. This study made use of questionnaires, interviews ,group discussions and observation . Street children participated in the group discussion and answered questions on the questionnaire . The questionnaire had closed and open ended questions. Other published research and reports provided useful information relating to the subject matter.

The researcher also conducted direct observation to obtain information on the plight of street children and the attitude of the society towards these marginalised children. Oral data was also compiled to shed light on the subject matter.

#### **3.6 Data Collection**

The researcher carried out the study on his own. The researcher always passed through the regular spots frequented by street children , giving them food or coins and managed to spend some time with the street kids to gain their confidence. This was important to establish a relationship with the target group before digging into their personal lives. The questionnaire was prepared in English but the interview sessions with the targeted group were conducted in shona for easy and effective communication with the children. Besides the structured interview guide, the researcher also initiated simple dialogue and conversation with identified street kids. Some of the data was collected through observation.

### **3.6.1 In-depth Interviews**

The researcher solely conducted the in-depth interviews with the key informants. Utmost confidentiality was emphasised during the face to face interviews. Most of the Respondents did not fully understand English neither could they effectively express themselves, so they were asked in shona. The questions asked the respondents concerned their family background , why they are now living on the streets, how they survive on the street, whom they blame for their situation and who should redress their situation , their perceptions about their future and what they think about the attitude of the society to their plight. For easy administration and distribution of questionnaires the researcher gave each respondent a questionnaire and assisted each to answer the questions. The researcher asked the street children to instantly answer the questions since they are always mobile hence leaving them with the questionnaire would not have been feasible. The Researcher also used focus group discussion to collect data as some of the street kids felt at easy and comfortable to express themselves in the presence and company of their friends . The researcher also noted that some of the street kids are always walking and spend most of their time in groups hence they were very comfortable to discuss their issues as a group .

The researcher observed a lot of enthusiasm from the street children who were very eager to narrate their life stories before and after they came to the streets. The various stories were summarised and presented in chapter four. The interviews conducted with key informants assisted and enlightened the researcher on the causes , consequences ,effects and risks of social marginalisation from the perspective of the targeted group.

### **3.6.2 Direct observation**

The researcher managed to observe how the street children interacted with members of the society , how they obtained the basic living necessities, and how they interacted among themselves. The researcher needed to uncover the perceptions and attitude of the society towards street children. For effective observation , the researcher managed to create an observation checklist which incorporated the common places frequented by street children, where they slept at night, the various activities they engage in ,and how the people in the mainstream society interacted with them.

### **3.6.3 Oral Data**

This is a flexible and easy way of gathering important information relating to a subject matter. The researcher initiated informal discussions on the subject under study with a variety of people. It is easier to extract information through investigative questions posed to people in informal gatherings and can be done anywhere, anytime and with anyone.

### **3.7 LOCATING STREET CHILDREN**

The researcher managed to identify the various places frequented by street kids during the day and where they slept at night. The street children in Gweru are mostly found in the Central Business District especially near Food Express , near Moonlight Building, at the recreational park located at the Municipal complex and also behind N-Richards wholesale. The interviews were mostly conducted during the day but observation was done even during the night. The interviews were conducted for seven days but observation took several weeks as the researcher is a resident of Gweru. The researcher ensured that no one was interviewed twice during the seven-day period of interviews.

### **3.8 PRE-TESTING OF INSTRUMENTS**

The researcher managed to pre-test the interview instrument by randomly interviewing both female and male street children during the day and night. The pre-test was conducted on Monday 16 march 2015 during the day and on Saturday 21 march 2015 during the night. The researcher discovered that it was difficult to interview female street children during the night as they would have disappeared from the streets, some of them will also be parading as prostitutes and thought the researcher was a potential client thus upon realising that you are just a researcher were not willing to participate and were less enthusiastic. The researcher also discovered that more detail could be obtained during the day to reduce the risk of being harassed or even feared by the male street children during the night. So the researcher decided to contact the interviews from Monday to Sunday during the day but to continue with the observation even during the night.

### **3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Hammersley and Traianou (2012:2) captures some of the important ethical principles as respecting autonomy, protecting privacy, minimising harm and treating people equitably. The researcher had to observe a number of ethical issues such as confidentiality, anonymity, informed consent, and integrity and honest. The participants were ensured of utmost confidentiality and anonymity in both the information they provided and their personal identities. The information extracted from key informants and participants such background profile, level of education, health profile, criminal profile and other personal issues were treated with high level of confidentiality they deserved.

The researcher made sure that all participants freely and willingly obliged to give the necessary required information without being enticed by any promise of incentive or any other form of enticement. All participants were informed about the nature, purpose and contribution of the research to the community at large.

The researcher was very truthful and honest to the participants and made sure that no one anticipated any form monetary or other material benefit for their participation in the research.

### **3.10 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

The researcher observed and interviewed street kids living in the streets of Gweru. Interviews were also conducted with officials from Gweru Provincial Hospital, Gweru Central Police Station, Ministry of youth, Faith Based Organisations, Gweru City Council, and Midlands Children Hope Centre. Questionnaires and interviews shall be used to extract information from also members of the society.

### **3.11 Data Analysis**

There was small sample of respondents so data was analysed manually. The information gathered was sorted and categorised to suit research objectives.

### **3.12 SUMMARY**

This chapter addressed and elaborated the methodology used in this study. The advantages of qualitative and quantitative research methods were given as well as the instruments of collecting information such as interviews and observation were duly noted. This chapter also presents issues of ethics, study population, study location as well the overall research design.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

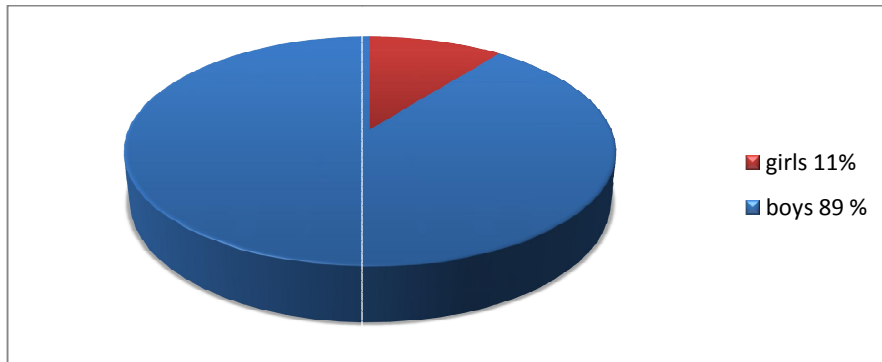
This chapter is mainly focused on data presentation, data analysis and the data interpretation obtained from respondents in Gweru that provided useful information concerning social exclusion and its inherent effects. The respondents included the street children, local residents, officials from government ministries, local authority, Non Governmental Organisations, and Faith Based Organisations. The data being presented is overly concerned with meeting the study objectives. The synopsis of the chapter is also provided at the end of the chapter.

#### **4.2 DATA PRESENTATION**

Data was collected through interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussion and observation that sought to reveal the situation on the ground. These data collecting instruments were regarded as suitable in collecting data since qualitative research method was being used to present the data from the respondents. The data collected through interviews, questionnaires, discussions and observation was then further analysed in words. The researcher made use of the qualitative sampling technique that is purposive in which the researcher handpicked the respondents who were socially excluded and those who had knowledge about the subject matter. Some of the key informants were officials from the ministries of youth development, indigenisation and empowerment, health and child welfare, education, sport and culture, labour and social welfare, justice and legal affairs. Officials from the Midlands Children Hope Project, Gweru City Council, Gweru Central Police Station and Churches provided also useful information. After analysing the responses in the interviews, key informant interviews and the use of secondary data that the following information was gathered:



### 4.3 GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF STREET CHILDREN



**Pie chart Compiled from interviews with children on the streets showing Distribution by gender**

The gender distribution of the respondents is represented in the pie chart whereby 51 of the 57 respondents were male thereby making up 89% of the total and females make up the remainder 6 respondents which represents 11% of the total. This distribution is true as it reflects the fact that there are few female street children. This distribution is attributed to the fact that male children are more adventurers, less afraid to take up risks and are naturally expected to cater for their own needs and are nurtured to be breadwinners. On the other hand female children are naturally inclined to assume roles at home, are more passive and few would take up the risk of staying on the streets. This distribution gives us the ratio of 1 female to 5 males on the street.

### 4.4 DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage
4-6	2	4
7-10	32	56
11-17	23	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table1 compiled From interviews with children on the street showing Distribution by age of respondents**

The table shows the distribution of the respondents by age, the distribution of those below 6 years is quite small as indicated by the fact that only two street children were interviewed. The figures are quite high between the ages of 7 and 10 as they make up 56% of the total. The 11-17 age group also has significantly high figure making up 40% of the total. The figures show a decline in the number of older street children. This has been attributed to the fact that as they grow old they find sources of income and find cheap accommodation in areas like Mambo and Mutapa suburbs.

#### 4.5 PARENTHOOD STATUS

Status	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Mother Deceased</b>	12	21
<b>Father Deceased</b>	17	30
<b>Both parents deceased</b>	22	38
<b>Both parents alive</b>	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2: Compiled from interviews with children on the street showing parenthood status**

The number of street children who have both parents deceased is significantly high at 30%. Paternal orphans also have a high figure (30%). Maternal orphans have a lower figure compared at 21%. The number of street children with both parents alive is quite low at 6%.

There is a significant number, 74%, of street children who do not have any identification document. Only 19% of the children interviewed claimed to have birth certificates but did not actually have them in their possession. The number of those with national IDs stood at 7%. All street children interviewed did not have a passport and most of them actually reiterated the fact a owning a passport was a farfetched privilege. It is important to note that lack of identification even strips street children of their citizenship right thereby further alienating them.

#### 4.6 HOW STREET CHILDREN ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED

Street children are far removed from social relations, have constrained access to resources and rights. They are growing up as a separate group of outcasts not sufficiently integrated in the society hence they do not enjoy societal benefits available to other citizens. Their social

exclusion arises from the fact that they do not have access to societal activities deemed essential for human development, they do not have access to resources that can aid the realization of their potential, they are incapable of participating in societal activities and are adversely constrained in terms of realizing their rights.

The constitution of Zimbabwe, Children's Act 5:06 and the Zimbabwe children's charter enshrines the fundamental rights that ought to be accessed and enjoyed by all children in Zimbabwe. These rights as enshrined in the constitution of Zimbabwe include the right to education (sec27 and 75), shelter (sec 28), health (sec29 and 76), right to food and water (77) and rights of children (sec 81). The Zimbabwe Children's charter expresses the aspirations and expectations as quality education, health, safety, care, protection, equality, identity, access to justice, promotion of talent for all regardless of location, background, status, sex or religion. Thus the social marginalisation of street children infringes upon their rights and requires lasting remedies.

#### **4.6.1 HOMELESSNESS AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

A home provides fundamental starting point of societal integration and social inclusion. The institution of family hood provides ethics that builds a human being that can co-exist with others without shame or prolonged fear of uncertainties. Street children are homeless children yet the under section 28 and 81(f) of the constitution of Zimbabwe makes shelter a fundamental human right. The realisation of this remains a mere dream for most of the street kids. In Gweru these children sometimes use a disused building near Moonlight Building along fifth street. This is however a territory of the mighty as many are left in the street with absolutely no shelter even during the rain season and the infamous severe winters experienced in the midlands capital.

#### **4.6.2 CONSTRAINED ACCESS TO FOOD AND WATER**

section 77 of the constitution enshrines the right to food and water but in reality street children constantly face starvation and malnutrition. When they get the food it is mostly left-over food which they pick from bins at Chicken-inn, Food Express, dumping site at TM bus terminus and other parts of the city. They overly rely on begging and scavenging to

survive and sometimes fight among themselves over the control of such sites and the little that they get .

#### 4.6.3 INADEQUATE EDUCATION

Education provides a basic foundation for child development .Section 27 and 87 of the constitution provides for the provision of the right to education as also expressed by the Zimbabwe children’s charter and the Dakar Declaration on Education 2006. Basically all these legislative frameworks aspire for quality education for all children of Zimbabwe regardless of background , location or status. However street children interviewed highlighted that they were expelled from school for failing to pay tuition fees. The government has failed to provide funds to cater for the education of this social excluded group thereby creating an illiterate reserve that will forever haunt the society and the nation at large. Street children interviewed highlighted that they also wished to be at school but spent all their time in the street while their age-mates are at school.

Level of education reached	Frequency	Percentage
Grade 1-4	20	35
Grade 5-7	23	40
Form 1-2	12	21
Form3-4	2	4
Currently going to school	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table3 : Compiled from interviews with children on the street showing status of education**

The information in the table shows that a greater number of street children, that is 75%, dropped out of school while still in primary level. The number of street children who did form 1 and form 2 stands at 21% and only 4 % had reached form 3-4. All the street children interviewed highlighted that they were no longer going to school. The children interviewed expressed their concern and wish to attend schools where they would interact and grow up with other children at school unlike growing up in the street with shame and insecurity.

#### 4.6.4 LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Street children rarely receive any medical attention yet they are at a greater risk of contracting and spreading all forms of diseases. These children are vulnerable to sexual abuse and sexual misdemeanours among themselves and are at risk of contracting HIV, STIs, and other diseases associated with non-hygienic environment. This makes street kids carriers of all forms of diseases which can easily be spread across society. Thus street kids require special attention yet they continue to be marginalised. The Zimbabwe children's Charter wants the government to prioritise children's health in line with the Abuja Declaration of 2005. The diagram below is an illustration of how street children access health services .

Access to health care	Frequency	Percent
Public hospital/clinic	9	16
Private hospital	0	0
Traditional	12	21
none	36	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table4. Compiled from the interviews with street children showing how they access health services.**

The table above shows that street children have limited access to health service yet they are vulnerable. The data presented in the table shows that 16 % of the population interviewed had for once accessed medical treatment from a public hospital. 21% of the population highlighted that they had easy access to traditional medicine sold at Kudzanai Bus Terminus. The 21% emphasised that they used traditional medicine for diarrhoea and sexually transmitted infections. A staggering 63% claimed that they just lived at the mercy of God without using traditional medicine or public hospitals. The street children claimed that they felt ashamed to visit public hospitals because of their identity and stigma.

#### 4.6.5 INADEQUATE SAFETY, CARE AND PROTECTION

Social exclusion relegates street children to the periphery of society where life for becomes the survival of the fittest like in the state of nature. Street children interviewed highlighted that they felt insecure , unprotected and uncared for. All children generally require a safe environment in which they receive adequate care and protection in order for them to

maximise opportunities and to realise their potential. Street kids receive no supervision or protection. This leaves them vulnerable to all forms of abuse and anti social behaviour. When the police are involved in their cases the children complained that they further harass these children instead of assisting and rehabilitating them. Some of the street children emphasised that they left abusive homes, escaped harmful traditional and faith practices such as child marriages .

#### 4.6.7 LACK OF IDENTITY BY STREET CHILDREN

Most street children do not have any identity documents such as birth certificates, national identity card or passport as shown in the diagram below. Lack of these essential documents prohibits these children from accessing basic education, health care, their inheritance and other social benefits enjoyed by children in the society. Thus clearly street children are treated as unknown social outcasts.

##### Identification documents

Identification document	Frequency	Percent
Birth certificate	11	19
National ID	4	7
passport	0	0
None	42	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 5: compiled from interviews with children on the streets showing those with identification documents**

There is a significant number,74%, of street children who do not have any identification document. Only 19% of the children interviewed claimed to have birth certificates but did not actually have them in their possession. The number of those with national IDs stood at 7% . All street children interviewed did not have a passport and most of them actually reiterated the fact that owning a passport was a farfetched privilege. It is important to note that lack of identification even strips street children of their citizenship right thereby further alienating them. These children are thus unable even to claim inheritance because they have no identity.

#### **4.6.8 CONSTRAINED ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

The research captured a dual system that concerns the access of street children to justice where they have been abused and their involvement in crime. Street kids are only involved in the justice system when they are the ones facing the wrath of the law , rarely do they receive a redress of the injustices they suffer at the hands of the society. They are also victims of abuse and even of the justice system. Police handling their cases treat them as criminals , drug addicts and prostitutes thereby perpetuating the victimisation and marginalisation of these children.

#### **4.6.9 SOCIAL EXCLUSION THROUGH IN-EQUALITY, DISCRIMINATION AND LACK OF PARTICIPATION**

The street children interviewed expressed common views that reiterated the fact that they were not receiving the special recognition deserved by their vulnerability. They indicated the society viewed them as an underclass and outcasts whose opinions are less appreciated or heard. The children interviewed highlighted that they had no knowledge of who to approach address their concerns. The research observed that most of the children felt deprived of their right to participate in the society and felt that the name given to them was derogatory and shameful. It was noted that the children have a low self esteem, felt insecure and their future is uncertain. These children also want to exercise their right to participation so that their opinions are heard and integrated at all decision making levels. The children interviewed also emphasised the fact that society blamed them for their present condition further alienating them to the fringe of society.

#### **4.7 THE PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIETY TOWARDS STREET CHILDREN**

The society generally alienates street children and view them as social misfits , criminals and prostitutes. The society tend to blame the street children for their fate. Most people distance themselves from street children and treat them as outcasts. However the society tend to ignore the fact that all individuals are shaped by the environment in which they live. Some people treat street children as a special of vulnerable children in need of greater assistance and inclusion. Others tend to take their vulnerability as a loophole to abuse and exploit them. Others fear street children due to the myth that street children are social misfits and drug

addicts. The situation is further worsened by the media reports that excessively focuses on the negative aspects of the street children. The focus is barely on myriad of disadvantages faced by street children.

Various scholars have noted the tendency by society to view the problems faced by marginalised groups as attached to the inherent nature of the people facing the problems. As such street children are further isolated by society when it fails to comprehend the fact that these children are already victims and are in need of social inclusion. People fail to understand that the very presence of homeless children in the society is evidence of a rotten social fabric that need to be redressed .

#### **4.8 CONSEQUENCES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF STREET CHILDREN**

Social exclusion drives street children into a state of nature where life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short"(Thomas Hobbes). These children certainly live a solitary life absent supervision, protection or guidance. Children who are socially excluded are very susceptible to criminal activities and other anti-social behaviors which are all aimed at their own self preservation. Social exclusion promotes human insecurity.

There are a number of effects and consequences that result from social exclusion. Social exclusion drives the marginalised group into prolonged poverty as most of the street children interviewed highlighted that they do not have hope for the future. This poverty is exacerbated be the excluded group does not have access to resources that are available in the society. These people do not enjoy the same rights and the same opportunities as other members and as the children feel neglected and uncared for and this shapes their behavioural development. Their constrained and restrained access to resources and services leaves them at the mercy of nature and the children are very uncertain and feel insecure about their future.

Social exclusion has adverse effects upon the psychological well-being of the excluded individual. People who are excluded have low-self esteem, have no confidence about their life and are always feeling insecure. The excluded group feels already unwanted or appreciated by the society and this tends to affect the way they view morality and societal ethics. . Children who are socially excluded are very susceptible to criminal activities and other anti-social behaviors. As these children have limited legitimate ways of sustaining their life ,they indicated that their situation forces them to indulge in criminal activities and prostitution in order to survive.



Social exclusion can also promote lack of sufficient social integration. This means that the excluded children have no link to social networks. The excluded children are not exposed to and accustomed to the norms and values that shape the behaviour of others in the mainstream society. This makes the excluded group an isolated pack burdened by shame, lack of confidence and insecurity which then promote delinquent behaviour. The existence of a hopeless, homeless and insecure group poses serious threats to the well being of the society. Children who are socially excluded are very susceptible to criminal activities and other anti-social behaviors.

#### **4.9 EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLEVIATE SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

##### **Historical**

The Department for International Development, DFID (2005:9) identified four key ways in which the government can promote social inclusion. These are legal and policy frameworks, public expenditure specifically targeting excluded groups, enhanced economic opportunities and promotion of political participation by everyone in the society. However it should be taken into account that policies have in the past been formulated addressing issues of concern for vulnerable children but have not produced the desired goals. This simply means that there is need to ensure that the policies are not just a rhetoric but a living reality.

According to Unicef and GoZ (2010:1) ‘‘ the future of Africa lies with the well being of its children and youth..... investment in children is tomorrow’s peace, stability , security , democracy and sustainable development’’. The Zimbabwean government has launched several initiatives, legislation and policies aimed at supporting marginalised children like street kids but progress has however been hindered due to lack of resources. According to Bransen et al. (2001) a vulnerable person is one who is incapable of accessing the basic necessities of life. The National Plan of Action for orphans and other Vulnerable Children was launched in 2004 with the aim of supporting these children with basic services. To show its commitment to the welfare of children, Zimbabwe has signed several regional and international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the Child (1999). All these were efforts aimed at uplifting the welfare of all children in Zimbabwe including street kids.

Some of the legislation that aims at promoting the welfare and non-discrimination of children including street kids are the Children's protection and Adoption Act , the Guardianship of Minors Act and the Maintenance Act. These pieces of legislation were further complemented by policies such as the National Orphan Care Policy, National Plan Of Action and the National AIDS policy. The government launched several programmes that targeted vulnerable children that included the Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM), Public Work Fund , Public Assistance Fund ,Assisted Medical Treatment Order and Drought Relief among many others. The government also launched what was termed the National Strategy on Children in Difficult Circumstances which aimed at reaching children in difficult circumstances in the community by providing resources to local authorities.

Most of the above noted policies and programmes failed to produce the desired progress and results due to several reasons. Economic constraints and lack of resources have hindered the realisation of the intended objectives underlying the formulation of the mentioned policies and programmes. Several times the government has been failing even to pay the civil servants hence one is justified to assert that street children can hardly be remembered under such circumstances even though the government has a well defined legislative and policy framework.

### **Current situation**

The situation has not improved for street children as the country's economic woes worsens. The Financial Gazette reported a story '**Treasury sacrifices street children**' in January 2015. The Ministry of Finance in its 2015 National Budget allocated 20 000 dollars for children living in the streets . While the figure is significantly low the release of the funds in another monumental task. The inclusion of street children in the National Budget seems a ridiculous rhetoric considering the fact that the funds are very inadequate and sometimes never released as supported by evidence gathered from the Financial Gazette. Evidence gathered from the ministry of youth Development , Indigenisation and Empowerment shows that there are no programs that are currently targeting the inclusion of street children in youth development and empowerment. The Ministry of Health and child welfare expressed difficulties and lack of resources in ensuring that street children are included in health services such as immunisation programs.

## **4.10 EFFORTS BY STAKEHOLDERS TO ALLEVIATE SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

### **How the civil society can alleviate social exclusion**

The civil society need to influence policies that are formulated and ensure that they cater for the needs of everyone including the voiceless and powerless marginalised group. The civil society need to promote behaviour and attitude changes in order to tackle prejudice and exclusion. The media has played an instrumental role in magnifying the negative aspects of street children , as such it should again play an essential role in promoting an all inclusive society. There is need for awareness campaigns that de-mystifies the stereo-typical negative views that abound in society concerning street children. However the research actually discovered that there are more of negative reports about street children than those aimed at alleviating their plight. It has been observed that most civic groups tend to focus on the rights of other children such as girls without adopting an all-inclusive approach that covers the rights of all children including especially those who are socially excluded.

### **How faith based organisations can promote social inclusion**

It is of particular importance to note that Zimbabwe is largely a Christian community and as such the rising number of Faith Based Organisations should add meaningful significance in alleviating social exclusion. These FBOs should adopt a moral and social obligation that focus on the plight of excluded groups. There is need for FBOs to supplement their religious doctrines through real practical work that promotes social inclusion. Churches have an important role to play due to the influence of religion upon the society. Religious doctrines and teachings are there to promote social inclusion and initiating behavioural change of the society and the excluded group. Instead of confining themselves to their churches there is need to promote a social responsibility that integrates socially excluded children into the society. Churches can indulge in awareness campaign that aim at removing the stigma and social misconceptions against street children. However the research exposed the fact that churches have generally given a blind eye to street children though their members give individual assistance to street children.

### **Efforts by Non Governmental Organisations**

One of the leading organisation that seeks to integrate and promote social inclusion of street children is the Midlands Children's Hope project (MCHP) founded in 1996 as a reaction to

the increasing population of street children living in Gweru, Zimbabwe. The organisation is concerned with orphans and vulnerable children. It also operates as a rehabilitation centre in Mkoba. Currently the organisation shelters 24 boys who are former street children and are now attending local school.,

Apart from that the organisation also runs a Drop-In Centre for street children, with the aim of integrating and rehabilitating them into mainstream society and providing education, and reunifying them with their families. The organisation runs a community kitchen at the Centre that caters for the city's socially excluded and destitute with a free meal for them each weekday. As such this organisation is facilitating a reduction of social exclusion by providing essential services to the homeless children who can easily fall into criminal activities if and when completely ignored.

Non Governmental Organisations have an equally important role to play in alleviating social exclusion. The Midlands Children Hope Centre has taken a leading role in promoting the social inclusion of street children by providing accommodation, food, clothing and education funds for selected street children in Gweru. NGOs need to ensure that their projects and programmes target marginalised groups such as street children who are not only vulnerable and excluded, but voiceless and powerless as well. There is need to fund policies that promote social inclusion. NGOs can also be a voice for these voiceless and powerless children by conducting awareness campaigns that aim at protecting the rights of the excluded group.

#### **4.11 CHALLENGES THAT HINDER SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Social inclusion has been defined by the World Bank as the process of improving the ability, opportunity and dignity of people disadvantaged to take part in the society. This is affirmative action that aims at fully integrating all members of the society by changing the circumstances that would have facilitated social exclusion. Everyone in the society has the right and should be accorded the opportunity to play a role in all social life aspects.

The major impediments noted as inhibiting social inclusion are inadequate financial resources, poor implementation of policies, lack of policies that specifically target the excluded group, societal misconceptions and ignorance to the excluded group. The

government of Zimbabwe came up with the National Plan of action targeting orphans and other vulnerable children. This policy has not been effectively implemented due to insufficient funds. The ministry of finance in its 2015 national budget allocated 20 000 dollars to street children but this is clearly a mediocre amount that is even yet to be released to the intended beneficiaries. Lack of representation for the excluded group contributes to their continued lack of participation in policies that benefit other youth.

The other challenge is that there is no policy in Zimbabwe that specifically targets street children apart from the OVC policy. While the phenomenon of street children has proved to be an endemic social crisis, there has not been adequate policy response to address this issue and ensure that everyone participates and enjoys the access to the resources, rights and relations available in the society.

Society still has misconceptions attached to the phenomenon of street children. Social exclusion goes beyond the individual but assesses the role of the society to accord all its members the ability to participate in the society. Blaming the victims of social exclusion is rather one way of actually perpetuating and sustaining social exclusion.

#### **4.12 Chapter Summary**

This chapter has presented the research findings from the research that was carried out by the researcher on the impact of social exclusion on the rights of street children. The research noted that the government does not have relevant policies that are aimed integrating excluded children in order to promote an all inclusive society. There are inadequate resources to promote social inclusion and as such the rights of street children remain a mere rhetoric.

## **Chapter 5**

### **SUUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 INRTODUCTION**

This chapter is focused on the conclusions of the research findings and study. In this chapter the researcher will give closing remarks on pertaining to the results of the research in relation to the research objectives and the subject under study. The researcher will give concluding remarks on the effects and consequences of social exclusion on the rights of street children and their constrained participation and access to resources. This chapter also captures the researcher's own views and recommendations on how to alleviate social exclusion and promote the realisation of the rights of the excluded children which would enhance their participation and integration in the mainstream society

#### **5.1 CONCLUSIONS**

As deduced from the study by the researcher concerning the 1<sup>st</sup> objective that is the causes, nature and process of social exclusion, street children experience constrained access to their rights, resources and social relations that aid human development. Poverty , economic distress , family break down and orphan hood contributes to the disadvantages that relegates children into circumstances of exclusion. The endemic nature of this phenomenon reveals the rotten social fabric that fails to integrate everyone in the society.

The second objective was concerned with the perceptions of the society that perpetuate social exclusion. The research is revealed the fact that the society pays ignorance to the underlying causes and process of social exclusion. The research noted that people tend to trivialise matters affecting other groups especially those groups that cannot make their concerns known thereby further alienating the voiceless children. This ignorance arises from failure to comprehend and appreciate the causes of the problem and also from the tendency to blame the victims for their situation. The society tends to focus on the negative activities of the

socially excluded without giving due attention to the fact that the behavioural patterns of the excluded group is due to social exclusion.

The preceding notion is then seen as linked to the third objective concerned with the effects of social exclusion. The research found out that street children view the term ‘street children’ as pejorative and that their identity is attached with shame and stigma. Their alienation has adverse effect upon their perceptions of the ethical code of conduct acceptable in the society as their life is virtually synonymous to life the state of nature. As such they adopt any means that sustain their lives. In as much as they feel their rights are not being respected they also see no need to observe the rights of others when opportunity presents itself for their benefit. This means that society is breeding sort of brutes burdened by insecurity in the face of prolonged poverty.

The fourth objective is concerned with the efforts of the government to alleviate social exclusion. The research noted that there is lack of policies and funds that should directly address the excluded children. The National Plan of Action targeting Orphans and Vulnerable Children launched in 2005 and re-launched in 2011 has yielded little in alleviating social exclusion. The major hindrance has been lack of adequate resources. The diminutive amount allocated to street children by government is reflective of how the matter is trivialised by national policy. The Ministry of Finance in its 2015 National Budget allocated 20 000 to street children but evidence has it that the funds are yet to be released besides being mediocre. The phenomenon of street children has proved endemic in nature and their social exclusion is an inherent feature yet the government has not come up with policies and portfolios that specifically target street children.

The fifth objective assesses the efforts of other stakeholders in alleviating social exclusion. The Midlands Children Hope Centre is one of the leading NGO in Gweru carrying out projects that promote the inclusion of street children. this organisation is running a centre in Mkoba that provides shelter, food ,clothing and education funds for children taken out of the street. This organisation provides rehabilitative services for street children while offering them meals. There is need for the media and the civil society to initiate awareness campaigns that demystifies the misconceptions of society about the subject matter. Instead of focusing more on the negative reports about street children , the media should change its focus and contribute meaningfully to the promotion of social inclusion. The research also observed that organisations need to adopt an all encompassing human rights approach rather than just

focusing on the rights of girls. All children deserve to enjoy their rights and as such street children are equally a deserving lot.

Challenges noted include the lack of knowledge by street children regarding public institutions that can address their plight. They remain voiceless and powerless as they do not have any representation that can aid their course. The government on the other hand is adversely financially incapacitated to implement policies and run projects that can promote social inclusion and the realisation of the children's rights for street children.

## **5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Social exclusion adversely affects the human development of children who lack the necessary means to be heard and to participate and as such the government need to ensure that the protection of children and children's rights is not just a mere rhetoric for the marginalised street children. There is need to invest more in social protection programmes that promote an inclusive society by enhancing the ability and opportunity for everyone to participate in essential societal activities.
- There should be policies that specifically target the marginalised groups. These policies should also be highly prioritised due to the fact that they are concerned with children's rights and should enhance the human security of the severely disadvantaged group.
- Most organisations such as Just Children Foundation, House Of Smiles, Streets Ahead, Zambuko House , dealing with street children are based in Harare as such there is need for their expansion to Gweru and other parts of the country .
- Civil society groups need to advocate the rights of all children without being selective. Street children need a voice that represent them hence its even appropriate for the government to accord parliamentary representation for all marginalised groups.

## **5.3 CHAPTER SUMMARY**

This chapter has summarised the entire work of the research study. The objectives of this research were met. The underlying conclusions of this research have been presented and recommendations have also been forwarded that aim at promoting the realisation of street children's rights , enhancing their participation and improving their access to resources thereby promoting social inclusion.



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## Appendix 1

### Questionnaire guide for street children in Gweru.

My name is ArtwellChivandire. I am an undergraduate student at the **Midlands State University** studying Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in politics and Public Management. As part of my studies I am carrying out a research study entitled: An Investigation on the impact Social Exclusion of street children on their rights: Case of Gweru. I would greatly appreciate your information regarding the subject matter under study. The information you give shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and shall be used strictly for academic purposes. Your name is not required.

#### Section A

- 1)Sex :                male                                female
- 2)Age :    a) 4-6                                b) 7-10                                c) 11-17

3)What is your place or district of origin?

.....

4a)Are your parents still alive?

- a) both                                b) mother                                c) father

4b) Did any of your parents have any form of disability?

- a)yes                                b)no

If yes, briefly explain

.....  
.....

5)Were they employed or are they employed?

- a)yes                                b)no

6)How long have you been staying on the streets?

- a)0-1 year                                b) 1-3 years                                c) 4-6 years                                d) 7-10 years

7)why did you decide to live on the streets?

.....  
.....

.....  
.....  
8) Do you attend any of the following ?

a) school      yes                  no                  b) church      yes                  no

If not explain why ?

.....  
.....  
9) If you attended school ,what grade or form did you get to and who paid for your school fees ?

.....  
10) How do you survive on the streets?

a) begging                          b) scavenging                          c) stealing                          d) selling drugs  
e) prostitution                          f) all of these                          g) other , specify.....

11) Do you have any identity document?

a) birth certificate      b) national identity      c) passport      d) none

**Section B**

12) Do you know any children's rights ?

.....  
.....  
.....  
13) who do you think should be helping and protecting you?

.....  
.....  
14a) How does the society treat you?

a) as normal children                  b) as a special group in need of help      c) as social misfits and criminals

14b) Briefly explain the attitude of the people towards you?

.....  
.....  
15) Have you ever suffered from any diseases while living on the streets?

.....  
.....  
16) If yes , how did you get treatment?

- a) hospital                      b) traditional medicine                      c) other, specify

17) Have you ever experienced any form of abuse before and while living on the streets?

- a) yes                                      b)no

If yes, explain how and from who?

.....  
.....  
18) Did you get any help from anyone when or after you were abuse?

- a) yes                                      b)no

if yes, who helped you and how?

.....  
.....  
19) Have you ever been arrested?

- a) yes                                      b)no

if yes, explain why you were arrested and how the case was solved?

.....  
.....  
20) who do blame for your situation?

- a)government      b) parents                      c)relatives                      d)myself

Explain why ?

.....  
.....  
21) what other challenges do you face on the streets and how do you overcome them?

**Section C**

22) Do you still have any contact with any of your family members?

- a) yes
- b)no

If yes, how do you communicate?

.....  
.....

23) Do you wish to re-unite with your family?

- a)yes
- b)no

Explain why for either of your answer

.....  
.....  
.....

24) How do you view your future?

.....  
.....

25) Have you ever received any form of help from the government or any other organisation?

- a)yes
- b)no

if yes , explain what sort of assistance?

.....  
.....

26) How do you think your situation can be improved?

.....  
.....



## Appendix 2

### Interview questions for key informants from Government Ministries and Departments, Non-governmental Organisations, and Faith Based Organisations

My name is ArtwellChivandire. I am an undergraduate student at the **Midlands State University** studying Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree in Politics and Public Management. As part of my studies I am carrying out a research study entitled: An Investigation on the impact of Social Exclusion of street children on their rights: Case of Gweru. I would greatly appreciate your information regarding the subject matter under study. The information you give shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and shall be used strictly for academic purposes.

1) Do you think street children are socially excluded?

a) Yes                      b) no

If yes, explain how and by who?

.....  
.....  
.....

2) Do you assist any street children?

a) yes                                      b) no

if yes, explain how you select and assist them?

.....  
.....  
.....

3) How do they respond to your efforts and assistance?

.....  
.....  
.....

4) Do you think street children are victims of human rights abuse ?

a) no                      b) yes

Briefly explain your answer.

.....  
.....  
.....

5)What do you think is the main cause of the problem of street children? Briefly explain your answer?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

6) what is your solution to the problem of street children and their social exclusion?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

7)What are the challenges you encounter in your charity work towards street children?

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.....  
.....

8) what do you think are the effects of social exclusion of street children, for both the society and the socially excluded children themselves?

a) effects of social exclusion for street children

.....  
.....  
.....

b)effects of social exclusion of street children on the society

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

9) What do you think can be the solution to social exclusion and its effects?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**Interview questions for the Police**

1) Do you think street children are socially excluded?

- a) Yes
- b) no

If yes, explain how and by who?

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.....  
.....

2) What are the criminal activities engaged in by street children?

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.....  
.....  
.....

3) How are the cases solved?

- a) treated as all other cases
- b) treated as a special case

Briefly explain your answer,

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

4) Do street children encounter any form of abuse?

- a) yes
- b) no

5) What kind of abuse?

.....  
.....  
.....

6) Who are the main perpetrators of this abuse?

.....  
.....

7) How can street children be adequately protected?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

8) Do you think there is any link between the social exclusion of street kids and their criminal activities?

a)yes

b)no

Briefly explain your answer.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

9) what do you think are the effects of social exclusion of street kids, for both the society and the marginalised children themselves?

a) Effects of social exclusion for street children

.....  
.....  
.....

b)Effects of social exclusion of street children on the society

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.....

10) What do you think can be the solution to social exclusion and its effects?

.....  
.....

**Interview questions for health service providers**

1) Do you think street children are socially excluded?

- a) Yes
- b) no

If yes, explain how and by who?

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.....  
.....  
.....

2) what are the common diseases suffered by street children?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3) Do you think street children adequately and freely access medical services?

- a) yes
- b) no

Briefly explain your answer.

.....  
.....  
.....

4) Do you think the street children are getting any form of health education?

- a) yes
- b) no

If yes, what are the programmes aimed at educating street children about their health?

.....  
.....  
.....

5) what do you think are the health effects of social exclusion of street kids, for both the society and the marginalised children themselves?

- a) effects of social exclusion for street children

.....  
.....  
.....

b)effects of social exclusion of street children on the society

.....  
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.....  
.....

6) What do you think can be the solution to social exclusion and its effects?

.....  
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.....

# MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLICMANAGEMENT

#### GUIDELINE FOR MARKING DISSERTATION

ITEM UNDER OBSERVATION	<i>COMMENTS</i>	<i>SCORE</i>
<b>Title [10 marks]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the title clear and precise?</li><li>• Does the title expose the problem under investigation?</li></ul>		
<b>Abstract/Introduction [10 marks]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does the abstract successfully bridge the gap between the title and subject?</li><li>• Does the student demonstrate knowledgibility about the nature, problem and purpose of study?</li><li>• Have the objectives of the study been clearly stated?</li><li>• How relevant is the literature reviewed and theories used?</li></ul>		
<b>Content [50 marks]</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are the chapters well laid out and coherent?</li></ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the work show the use of relevant research methods?</li> <li>• Is the evidence authentic?</li> <li>• Is there evidence of research?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Conclusion/ Recommendation [10 marks]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the work been resented?</li> <li>• Does the conclusion answer the objectives?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Reference [10 marks]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the references been accurately presented?</li> <li>• Has the referencing style been consistent?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Layout, Presentation and Editorial</b></p> <p><b>Assessment [10 marks]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there continuity in the style of writing?</li> <li>• Is there correct use of English in terms of consistency?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>TOTAL SCORE (100 MARKS)</b></p>		

Signature of the Supervisor.....Comment on Submission.....

Signature of the Marker.....Date.....

Signature of the Moderator.....Date.....