



Status, Challenges, Practices and Policies Addressing the Conditions of Street Children in Eastern Visayas, Philippines: Basis for a Proposed Intervention Plan

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ABSTRACT

This mixed methods study steered to find out solutions to the problems posed by the existence of street children in Eastern Visayas. Thirty street children were purposively selected who filled out the questionnaire. An interview was also employed to survey feedback among CSWDOs on the extent of programs and projects administered by their respective offices. Results of the study disclosed that majority of the street children are categorized as “children on the street”. Moreover, the results identified the predisposing factors that contributed to the occurrence of street children in their localities. The participants observed that these street children perform various activities aside from just roaming in the streets. In terms of program implementation, the results disclosed that LGUs implement measures in collaboration with other appropriate agencies and authorities to address the current situation of their locality on street children. Majority mentioned the enforcement of certain ordinances and local policies to remedy the problems associated to street children. Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are offered: (1) Transparency report in the real situation analysis, current demographic and economic profile of the street children. (2) Continuous monitoring if the street children are enrolled in formal education. (3) Strengthen and assess non-formal education to the street children to have the privilege to instruction on the premise of balance, opportunity and without separation on any grounds, education must be accessible for all, available to and comprehensive to all children. Further, appropriate funding, monitoring, and sustainability of supporting programs should also be sought for those street children for them to benefit with it.

Key Words: Street Children, Poverty, Mixed-Methods, Descriptive, Sustainability

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I. INTRODUCTION

In a society where poverty is an everyday battle, children endure the most

defenseless sector in any population. Destitution impacts specifically on children's



physical and scholarly development (UNICEF, 2012).

As published in an article by Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Tacloban City elected officials aiming to strengthen the functionality of the Barangay Council for the Protection of the Child (BCPC) to help on the issue of street children who wander around urban areas.

Similarly, Idaño in Lopido (2013), mentioned that, the issue of street children will be limited, if not comprehended, once LGUs turn out to be completely mindful of their parts, especially the BCPC. DSWD additionally gives psycho-social activities, especially to 26 street children now at Barangay Tagpuro, Tacloban, City. Idaño, additionally, communicated alert over the expanding number of street children in the district. For the record, Eastern Visayas, especially the city of Tacloban has the most number of street children which is currently balanced at 200 (Lopido, 2013).

Despite this program of the government, a report from "Save our Souls" SOS Children's Villages International (2015) found that, Samar is one of the poorest areas in the Philippines, and particularly, those living in rural areas, are brimming with hardships. The lack of education rate is likewise over the national level.

Indeed, the researcher intends to search out the status, challenges, practices and policies of street children in Eastern Visayas and assess their learning needs so they may at least have the momentum for basic education.

II. Objectives

1. Describe the street children in Eastern Visayas in terms of;
 - 1.1 age
 - 1.2 sex
 - 1.3 categories by location;
 - 1.3.1 children "on" the street,
 - 1.3.2 children "of" the street, and
 - 1.3.3 completely abandoned children,

- 1.4 children's educational background
 - 1.4.1 highest grade completed, and
 - 1.4.2 reasons for dropping out,
- 1.5 street children economic activities;
 - 1.5.1 street activities of the street children
 - 1.5.2 street children spent their money
 - 1.5.3 street children's daily income
 - 1.5.4 duration of time children out of the street
 - 1.5.5 needs, hopes and aspiration
- 1.6 family background
 - 1.6.1 parent's condition
 - 1.6.2 parent's educational background
 - 1.6.3 parent's monthly income
 - 1.6.4 occupational distribution
- 1.7 present lifestyle of the child
 - 1.7.1 habit and addiction
 - 1.7.2 HIV/AIDS/STDs Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
 - 1.7.3 experiences of child abuse
 - 1.7.4 reasons for being street children
 - 1.7.5 causal factor
2. Analyze government policies on street children in the different public and private organizations;
3. Document best practices on basic education including Non-Formal Education, LGUs, NGOs, PVOs and other agencies promoting the welfare of street children;
4. Describe the status and challenges of street children in Eastern Visayas; and
5. Analyze government solutions on the situation of street children in Eastern Visayas.

III. Methodology

Research Design

The study used a mixed method design to meet its research objectives. Mixed methods refers to an emergent methodology of research that advances the systematic integration, or "mixing," qualitative and quantitative data within a single investigation or sustained program of inquiry. (Creswell, 2011).

The researcher utilized close-ended information for quantitative data such as rating scales or observation checklists and



performance instruments. The analysis of this type of data consists of statistically analysing scores collected from questionnaires or checklists to answer research questions.

Additionally, for qualitative data the researcher used an open-ended questionnaire that conducted through interviews, focus groups and observations. The analysis of the qualitative data (words, text or behaviours) typically follows the path of aggregating it into categories of information and presenting the diversity of ideas gathered during data collection.

Similarly, a descriptive survey method was applied. Descriptive is a type of quantitative research that involves making careful descriptions of educational phenomena (Gall, Gall & Borg, 2007). This research design is limited to control over extraneous variables, no

manipulation of independent variable to threats and internal validity

Further, the qualitative method for the principle of concurrent triangulation strategy only documents review (DR) and key informant interview (KI) were applied and agreed upon by the panels to increase the validity and credibility of results and thus relevant information was gathered to get the latest status of street children in Eastern Visayas.

Locale of the Study

The locale of the study was focused only on the major city divisions of the region particularly Baybay City, Borongan City, Catbalogan City, Calbayog City, Ormoc City, and Tacloban City. Based on the reports from CSWDOs, these cities mentioned have the most numbered of street children.

Participants of the Study

Table 1. Composition of the respondents per division

DIVISIONS	RESPONDENTS	
	STREET CHILDREN	KI Interview (DSWD, LGUs and NGOs)
Baybay City	5	1
Borongan City	5	1
Calbayog City	5	1
Catbalogan City	5	1
Ormoc City	5	1
Tacloban City	5	1
TOTAL	30	6

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Sampling Procedure

The non-probability sampling technique was utilized in the study wherein each child in the city was not given an equal chance of being selected as part of the sample, they were selected based on the report of the CSWDO with high concentration of street children. Consequently, the method of data collection that was used for street children in every city was convenience sampling. Also, this is usually

based on a certain criteria laid down by the researcher and panel.

Moreover, the assessment for KI employed qualitative approach. The researcher has also employed convenience sampling. A simple interview schedule was thus written. All questions used were open-ended and were openly phrased in context with each person and situation.



Research Instrument

The survey questionnaire that was originally formulated through different related studies conducted by different agencies (MOLSA, UNICEF, UCC, 1993, Dawson, 2002) and was adopted by (Gebresellassie, 2006) in his study; “A Study on Street Children In Dessie with Specific Reference To ADMAS Child Rehabilitation and Development Project”. Some modifications were made by the researcher in obtaining street children’s status in Eastern Visayas.

Data Analysis

The researcher utilized percentage to compare the profile of respondents. Since the sample size taken in the study was small, frequency count was used in the analysis that requires counting the responses and reproducing them.

Further, the coding analysis for KI was used in qualitative approach. A simple interview schedule was prepared. All questions used were open-ended and were openly phrased in context with each person and situation.

Content analysis was used for the key informants’ data. After several codes and themes were identified, these were reviewed for further analysis in terms of expanding or collapsing various codes or themes within each source of data. Following this, responses for the

closed-ended questions were categorized and given codes and themes. Once the analysis was completed on all data sources for the KI, comparisons were made to identify the similar/complementary themes and differences/discrepancies.

IV. Results and Discussions

Description of Street Children in Eastern Visayas

The survey covered a total of 30 street children consisting of 26 boys and 4 girls. The street children were divided according to age groups of 5-7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-16, and 17-19. Nevertheless, since it was difficult to get respondents with 5-7 age range the distribution was slightly altered. This study disclosed that there was a smaller group of street children in the range of 7 years old and below because most of the street children were the highest risk street dwellers who may easily or who have already embarked the dangerous journey from longing for foods, working on the street, passes along to dropping out of school, going home less frequently, losing one’s family, and to finally becoming completely marginalized from society. Thus, the actual distribution was two for age 5-7, two for age group 8-10, four for age group 11-13, 17 for age group 14-16, and five for age group 17-19. In total, they were 26 (86.7%) boys and 4 (13.3%) girls.

Table 2. Respondents by age and sex

Age Group	Male	%	Female	%	Both Sexes	TOTAL
5 – 7	1	3.3	1	3.3	2	7
8 – 10	2	6.6	0	0	2	7
11 – 13	3	10	1	3.3	4	13
14 – 16	16	53.3	1	3.3	17	56
17 – 19	4	16.6	1	3.3	5	17
TOTAL	26	87	4	13	30	100

As shown in Table 2, out of 30 sample groups selected 87% (26) were boys and 13% (4) were girls. This study disclosed that girl

street children were advised by the CSWDO to send them from child and youth centers for their protection might happen while they are in



the streets. The sample's average was 15 years. In terms of gender population of street children, Silva (2002) discovered that about seventy percent (70%) of children obvious in the street are young men, and young ladies are less for following reasons, they are for the most part helping more younger siblings, they are typically employed as local partners inside private family units, they are tricked or trafficked into prostitution and are housed in massage parlors.

Much of 56% of children "on the street" and the majority 50% who slept "of the street" were aged 14 to 16. Similar proportions (43%) of children "of the street" were aged 5 to 13 and 17 to 19 years. Data revealed that children "of the street" were tended to be older than children "on the street".

Correspondingly, Labid (2016) revealed that street children's age covers from six (6) to

seventeen (17) years, but most of them were from eleven (11) to fourteen (14) year-old bracket.

This study disclosed, the street way of life is dominated by male and the most common age group that are vulnerable to the street way of life are those between 14 to 16 constituting the majority (56%) of the street children. Seventeen fall between age of 14 to 16 comprising the majority (56%). The second highest age group was five (5) street children were from 17 to 19 years of age (17%). The four (4) street children were in the age group of 11 to 13 (13%). The data on the age group shows that from five to nineteen (5 to 19) out of which 2 (1 male and 1 female) were between 5 and 7 (7%).

Categories of street children by location

Table 3. Distribution of street children categories by location

Categories of Street Children	LOCATION					TOTAL
	Under the Bridge (%)	Market (%)	Parks (%)	Abandoned Building (%)	Center (%)	
Children on the street	3.3	13.3	50	3.3	0	70
Children of the street	3.3	3.3	10	10	0	27
Completely abandoned	0	0	0	0	3.3	3
TOTAL	6.6	16.3	60	13.3	3.3	100

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A total of 53% of 30 street children interviewed were living on the streets, and had homes to sleep at night. Some eight (8) of the street children worked and slept on the street. Most of the children were staying with at least one biological parent while others are living with their close relatives. While, the rest of six (6) were children who slept both on the streets and their homes.

A number of eight children "of" the street, who were interviewed around an

abandoned building, parks and markets, appeared more messy and dirty, with poor access to education, foods, water and shelter, sanitation, and health problems. Most of these children were begging money for food. Similarly, one "completely abandoned" child from Ormoc City who is now under the care of a Social Development for Children and Youth center, was abandoned in the market at the age of (2).



Children's educational background

Table 4. Respondents by the highest grade completed

Educational Status	Frequency	%
Grade 1 to 6	22	73
Grade 7 to 12	8	27
TOTAL	30	100

Table 4 shows the educational status of the street children which was assessed based on the three categories – illiterate, read and write, and according to the highest-grade level they completed which is still subdivided into elementary and secondary levels. Some 26 (87%) of street children can read and write, 22 (73%) are from Grade 1 to 6. Eight (27%) are from Grade 7 to 12 and there is no one above grade 12. This study disclosed that the educational achievement of the street children is minimal. Most of these street children are deprived of educational services. Again eight (8) out of thirty (26.6%) street children were

enjoying their rights to education. Therefore, the general presumption of this study was most of the respondents were school dropouts.

Consequently, 18 children (60%) of the street dwellers have never gone to school. Some had stopped because of poverty, lack of funds to finance education and some chose to stay in the street to look for employment to support the family and education. Some 87% had some basic skills in reading and writing, 73.3% had experienced primary education (Grades 1 to 6) while 26.6% had some secondary education (Grades 7 to 12).

Table 5. Reasons for dropping out from the school

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of support	19	63.3
Poor performance	4	13.3
To help parents	3	10
Health/Medical problems	2	6.6
Peer Pressure	2	6.6
TOTAL	30	100

Table 5 reveals that of the 26 dropouts interviewed, 19 (63.3%) left schooling because the subjects' respective families could no longer sustain the financial needs, 3 (10%) said that, they stopped schooling because they are in the street to look for a job to help their parents, two (2) were influenced by their peers, four (4)

stopped going to school because of low academic performance and two had left schooling due to health problems. This study disclosed that those children who are experiencing poverty are the ones who were unable to continue their education thereby drifting in street way of life.

Street Children Economic Deeds

Table 6. Street activities of the street children



Sequence No.	Kind of Occupation	Frequency	Total (%)
1	Garbage Scavenger (Collecting Empty Bottles)	11	37
2	Fruit/Fish/Vegetable Vendor	7	23
3	Cigarette and Candy Vendor	4	13
4.5	Beggar	3	10
4.5	Parking Boy	3	10
6	Car Washer	2	7
	TOTAL	30	100

Ten percent (10%) of street children were beggars while the vast majority or 73% were vendors, 10% parking attendants, and 7% were car attendants or car washers, or both.

The research confirms that many vendors are children on the street (66%)

followed by those who were parking boys. Those who worked as car washer (7%) were mostly children who sleep both at home and on the streets.

How street children spent their money

Table 7. How children spend their daily income

How they spend their income	Frequency	Percentage
School Fee	19	63
Food	4	14
Cloth	3	10
Help family	3	10
Shelter	1	3
TOTAL	30	100

The clear majority of street children (50%) reported that they spend their money on paying school fees; the majority expressed that they save adequate amount of money for the next school year. A little over ten percent (10%) reported they bought own clothes of their own, same three (3%) for house rentals, seven percent helped their parents for the house expenses, while 30% spend it on food.

Duration on the street

The majority (37%) of the street children had spent two to three (3) years on the street. Almost a quarter (33%) had spent 4 months to one year been relatively new to the street. Smaller numbers had spent four (4) to five (5) years (10%). However over 20% had six years and above (See Table 8).



Table 8. Length of time children out of the street

DURATION (years)	Frequency	Percentage
1 year and below	10	33
2-3	11	37
4-5	3	10
6 years and above	6	20
Total	30	100

Needs, Hopes, and Aspirations

The children's most emergent needs were security, food, shelter, medical care, clothing and money to survive their daily living on the street. But most (86.6%) expressed that they hope to save an adequate amount of money for their basic education. If they will be given a chance to enroll and continue their education, they would choose to save the amount of money for their future. Those who

still are going to school part time answered that they aspire to continue their education even up to going to college and/or university level. Some of them aspire to become teacher (7), doctor/physician (1), police/soldier (15), businessman (1), engineer (5), and service crew (1). They replied that they would like to obtain a permanent job that does not involve being constantly on the move.

Table 9. Parent's condition

Family Condition	Frequency	%
Both are alive	14	46.6
Only father alive	5	16.6
Both dead	2	6.6
Divorced/separated	2	6.6
Total	30	100

Table 9 reveals that seven (7) (23.3%) came from home where only mothers are alive. In five cases (16.6%) only the fathers were alive. Parents of the majority (46.6%) were both alive. Parents of two (2) (6.6%) other than children were reported to be dead and the remaining two (6.6%) cases were coming from divorced or separated family. In sum, 16 (53%) of the street children interviewed have incomplete family including parents that are not living together. While, 14 (47%) cases of parents are alive and living together. The incomplete families have only one of the parents living, the cause of

which may be due to death, separation or divorce.

Educational Background of Parents

Regarding educational status of their parents, 17 fathers and 18 mothers are reported to be illiterate, followed by another eight (8) fathers and five (5) mothers with the ability only to read and write. A number of four mothers attended grades one to six and only two mothers are said to have attended above secondary school and one mother was under the ALS program. A number of four of the fathers have attended grades 1 to 6, two from



grades 7 to 9 and two others from grade 9 and above. The educational background of two (2) of the fathers was not known. Overall, the educational achievement of their parents is very least.

Parents' monthly income

The findings disclosed that out of the 30 respondents, nine children had their parents' income below P500 per month, seven (7) between P501 to 1000/month, six (6) between P1001-1500/month and six (6) above P2000. The remaining two (2) parents were part time laborer and construction workers. Some children were not able to indicate the specific income or salary of parents because most of the respondents do not know what level of income their parents used to have or still have. The other two fathers were no longer employed because of health issues like hypertension and stroke.

Occupational Distribution of the Street Children's Family

Of the 30 street children interviewed disclosed that almost all of the parents' occupations (farming, fishing daily laborers, petty sellers/vendors, and guard in far places) are of very low economic return. This data reflects the fact that poverty contributes to the root cause of the problem of street children. Above 70% of the families earn below the minimum wages (below 10,000/month) of the country. The occupation of most fathers of these street children is security guard in Manila (23%), part time construction/daily laborers are four (4), six (6) fishermen; two (2) farmers, seven (7) are tricycle/jeep drivers, two (2) are no longer employed due to health problems and the remaining two (2) are beggars. On the other hand, thirteen (13) of the mothers are vendors; seven (7) are daily laborers, five (5) are petty traders (street sellers), two (2) are house maids and a cook. In general, the occupations indicated a monthly income that is not sufficient to support the family. As reported by

children, the child belonging to such a family is thus forced to join the streets to contribute to the family income.

Present Lifestyle of A Street Child Habit and Addiction

Only 43 percent (13) of street children reported that they do not take any kind of intoxicants only online games, while 17 (57%) of the interviewed children reported that they have habit of smoking and sniffing contact adhesive like rugby. The 17 children using rugby and smoking appeared more vulnerable to several risks due to peer pressures. The use of intoxicants by street children can be viewed as a risk factor in a few areas including sexual abuse and infection with HIV.

HIV/AIDS/STDs Knowledge, Attitude and Practices

A number of 26 reported they have been sick while living and/or working on the streets. Only four (4) reported that they have never been sick. Concerning the kind of illnesses, six (6) reported to have severe headaches/colds/fever, seven (7) have had stomachache and two (2) have had cases of Dengue.

Some 15 (50%) male street children reported to have sexual encounters with persons of the same sex, while one young male reported that he was forced to do sexual acts by adult male on the streets. A total of 50% of the street children revealed that they suffered from sexually transmitted diseases.

Some 37% (11) identified as commercial sex workers as a practice that accelerates the spread of STDs. A total of 13% (4) identified at least three ways of preventing AIDS. Some 11 (37%) of the street children identified use of condoms as a measure to reduce the spread of HIV; four mentioned that they did not know what could be done to reduce the spread of AIDS.

Experiences of Child Abuse

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Haydar (2017) describes street children are exposed to a wide range of risks affecting their physical and psychological health and personal safety.

Two street children (1) male and (1) female mentioned that there have been times street adults have forced them to commit sexual act, while 9 children (30%) mentioned that they have been beaten or hurt by adults

while living/working on the streets. Eleven male respondents reported to have had any sexual intercourse with same sex for the sake of money. A total of 6 children or the Children In-conflict with the Law (CICL) reported that they have been caught by the police for stealing motorcycle, fruits and vegetable, and have been caught due to curfew (3).

Table 10. Reasons for Being Street Children

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Seeking employment to support education	19	63
Seeking food	4	13
Earning income for family	3	10
Abused by parents/guardians	2	7
Inadequate care	2	7
TOTAL	30	100

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Children identified several factors which lead them to become street children, as during the interviews they mentioned health and mental problems, abusive parents/guardians, hunger and their need for money from work to support their education are some reasons why they moved onto the streets. Social and economic factors appeared to be primary in pushing children onto the streets. Extreme poverty, lack of support, death of parents, and peer pressures appeared are some of the factors that results to the inability of the family to look for the child.

As enumerated by Volpi (2002), the following are the issues why children choose to have a street life; (1) low family income; (2) homelessness; (3) neglect and abuse; (4) school failure; and (5) loss of parents due to armed conflicts, natural disasters, HIV/AIDS and other epidemics, and refugee problems.

(Key Informants)

This part was the interpretation of the qualitative data based on the results given by the LGUs, CSWDOs and PVOs in Eastern Visayas.

On government policies

The participants actively identified existing programs and policies catered to street children. These programs are provisions by certain laws and agency regulations.

“There are protection services unit at CSWDO who caters these cases. Street children, anti-child/human trafficking and violence against women and children (VAWC) headed by a registered/licensed social worker in the unit.”

Collaborated functions between the CSWO and the PNP were identified to better safeguard the welfare of the street children. Measures implemented by respective agencies are observed by the participants.

“The Philippine National Police and Ormoc City council for the welfare of children sees to it that the four fundamental rights of children: survival, protection, development, and participation shall be institutionalized and implemented so that who are the future of the city have all the access and wider opportunities to experience.”(K1, line 4)



“Being the implementer, the local government unit ensures that these children be taken cared of specially that Ormoc City a regional awardee and national finalist in the Child-Friendly City Independent component category for couple of years and currently included in the search for child-friendly city again. As to the NGO there is no specific agency who caters for these children but there are child-focused agencies who caters to sponsorship program, child labor and 4Ps a government entity. The Philippine National Police and Ormoc City council for the welfare of children sees to it that the four fundamental rights of children: survival, protection, development, and participation shall be institutionalized and implemented so that who are the future of the city have all the access and wider opportunities to experience.”

“Convincing them daily to conduct education and value formation; coordinate with the NGO’s for financial support like soliciting donation for their feeding; educational materials like books, pencil/ballpen, paper notebook and personal needs like clothing, slippers and etc; coordinate to the DEPED to conduct Alternative Learning System; coordinate with the social worker to assess the needs of the family for livelihood projects to be taken from Alay Lakad funds to be operated individually by the family. And other needs like provision of fund assistance, financial assistance in crisis like medical needs and counseling with the families for redirection and referrals to other agencies for job placement of a family member with skill.”

“Street educators were assigned to look into the problem of street children and provide direct intervention to these children as needed; three program interventions: (1) street-based, (2) community based, (3) center based approaches with program for street children, and curfew ordinance implementation.”

The formulation and implementation of community based services for street children; provision of educational assistance; conduct of

counseling sessions; conduct of sports development activities; life skills development sessions; dance workshops; conduct of parents’ effectiveness sessions to parents; provision of livelihood assistance to parents; regular monitoring in school of those street children who are now enrolled; referral to rehabilitation center; and implementation of curfew ordinance and code of responsible parenting are observed by the different LGUs and CSWDOs.

Likewise, ordinances on: curfew for minors (10:PM to 4:AM), internet regulation, prohibition of selling rugby to minors, prohibition of hiring minor in entertainment establishment/workplaces, local children code, gender and development code, strengthening of barangay council for the protection of children are being implemented for the welfare of the street children.

Best practices on basic education and non-formal education

Participants implement measures in collaboration with other appropriate agencies and authorities to address the current situation of their locality on street children. Majority mentioned the enforcement of certain ordinances and local policies to remedy the problems associated to street children.

“Ordinances on: curfew for minors (10:PM to 4:AM), internet regulation, prohibition of selling rugby to minors, prohibition of hiring minor in entertainment establishment/workplaces, local children code, gender and development code, strengthening of barangay council for the protection of children.”(K5, line5)

Other initiatives of the CSWO and the LGU concerns on education and other social services that are aimed of alleviating the street children from predisposing factors that led them to their current situation. Family support such as financial assistance and counseling services are also provided.



“..coordinate to the DepEd to conduct Alternative Learning System; coordinate with the social worker to assess the needs of the family for livelihood projects to be taken from Alay Lakad funds to be operated individually by the family. And other needs like provision of fund assistance, financial assistance in crisis like medical needs and counseling with the families for redirection and referrals to other agencies for job placement of a family member with skill.” (K3, Line 2-4)

“I guess the right office to reply is the Department of Education. However, at our level being a street-based implementer, we conducted non-formal education in the form of teaching four fundamentals of Mathematics, writing, scribbling, reading the alphabet, prayers, songs, showing family photograph and educational assistance for children were there are already college graduates at present. Most of these children are vending spices, water boy, working at a barbecue stand, dishwasher any odd jobs which they can earn few pesos for their food.”

“Following are implemented for admitted at the center: (1) Non-formal education are conducted in the center for out of school/not in school, (2) ALS, (3) formal education for interested minors, (4) referred manpower for skills training.”

Description of status and challenges of street children

The participants were clear and consistent on giving insights on the situation of street children in their respective localities. They were consistent on affirming the incidence of street children in their area as well as acknowledge the distribution of these street children since they come from the nearby municipalities and barangays.

“As far as Ormoc City is concerned we have 15, repetitive street children in the city. Four of these children are from nearby

municipalities namely; Albuera, Kananga, Isabel and Brgy. Lemon, Capocoan. (K1, lines 1-8)

A number of 11 children are from Ormoc City alleged the causes of being street children (locally called “batog”) and these causes are broken homes, abandonment by parents, solo parents and under the care of aged grandparents. These children sleep at sidewalk alley at the malls. This serves as their house-keeping quarters for a night. Majority of the children are boys. Nature of being street children are working at terminal for (single) motorcycles where they cover it with plastic/cartoons, or as vendor, beggars, and scrap boys. Barbecue either dish washer, water boys or the like.

The participants likewise identified the predisposing factors that have contributed to the occurrence of street children in their localities.

“They became street child due to poverty, poor education and low income of the families and large size family and the family breakdown and abandonment, neglected, and immature parents.” (K3, Line 8-29)

Calbayog has 12 street children managed by street educator of CSWDO Calbayog together with other government and non-government agencies. They are convene daily every morning and taught good values and boasting academic skill/knowledge like writing, reading, storytelling, arts and crafts, games, music and likewise provided feeding or snacks. They became street child due to poverty, poor education and low income of the families and large size family and the family breakdown and abandonment, neglected, and immature parents.

The street children were also identified to be dwelling in different places in their area. The participants observed that these street children perform various activities aside from just roaming in the streets.



“They are children who spent large time living, working, roaming, begging and playing on the street. For them, the street, is their playground and temporary home because their parents are not around.”(K4, line 4)

Street children are endorsed/referred to the center are mostly below 18 years old coming from the different barangays in Borongan City and even from the neighbouring barangays. They are children who spent large time living, working, roaming, begging and playing on the street. For them, the street, is their playground and temporary home because their parents are not around.

Further, LGU of Tacloban, provides social protection and promote the rights and welfare of the children, vulnerable and the disadvantaged individual, family and community to contribute to poverty alleviation and empowerment through Social Welfare Development (SWD) policies, programs, projects and services implemented with or through LGUs, NGOs, POs, and other members of the civil society. Through the above mentioned agencies, it helps to decrease the number of street children in their city.

Solutions on the situation of street children

The participants acknowledged the importance of sustainable measures to address the situation on street children in the different localities of the region. From social services up to the different forms of assistance, the participants agreed unanimously that institutionalized social services, education, parent counselling and sound referral and monitoring measures are integral components in coming up with a solution on the proliferation of street children and its corresponding impact to the society.

“First and foremost, if only there are responsible parents the then I guess there are no street children; (1) A sustained economic activities for the family to support their needs, (2) continuous parent effectiveness service

seminars to would-be parents and parents, (3) Marriageable age must be established to know the capacity of the parents their roles and responsibilities, (4) moral recovery program teaching the biblical principles.” (K1, lin 1-5)

“Establishment of a center in the city, strengthening of Barangay council for the protection of children, sustainability of the community based services for the street children and parents and coordination and linkages with other agencies.”(K2, 1-2)

The city of Ormoc through the CSWDO is manned to consider these children safety. There is a protection services unit at CSWDO who caters these cases. Street children, anti-child/human trafficking and violence against women and children (VAWC) headed by a registered/licensed social worker in the unit. Currently, it was reported that, 11 job order (6 males and 5 females) are deployed as street-based implementer either non-formal educator and workers who does saturation drive to catch children living on the street, those who are frequent in computer/net establishments and those who are loitering during class hours. Aside from the street-based implementer, there are also workers at anti-human trafficking stations. They have formed a street-band for children before currently ceased to implement such diversion program for them. A temporary shelter caters to these children – Social Development for Children and Youth (SDCCY).

Likewise, the workers’ main task is to return the children to their parents (if any) when captured during curfew hours, does counselling and coordinate with Philippine National Police (PNP) in what they called saturation drive. If they cannot be returned during the night.

Further, they are then housed in some temporary shelter at the center. In case the child commit three times he or she can no longer be accommodated at the center instead



reported and escorted to the police station for investigation/ consultation with parents.

Provisions of support services to provide funding support for the implementation of the programs and services. Also, inclusion in the Annual Investment Plan of the identified programs and services.

Aside from meeting them daily to provide education and value formation, our proposed is to institutionalize the program of the street children by proposing a drop-in center where they could be managed for 24 hours and more if needed. As of this date has not been realized yet.

“Full support of the local government unit in the full implementation of the program and the realization the proposed projects.”(k4, Line 2)

“Training of the child must start the below 6 years old so that when he is old/or growing up he will not depart from it as what the Bible Says, and conduct of parent effectiveness service in the barangay be enforced/conducted regularly.”(K5, line 3)

Street children were turn-over to the center mostly by street educators who are in-charged in reaching out these children. While at the center, parents are contacted by the center to come to the office and conduct counseling, focusing on parent effectiveness service as reminders of their duties, role and responsibilities as parents. Programs and services will extend to the children. Inclusion in group sessions, activities, provision of basic needs. If they are in school, we encouraged them together with the parents to support/pursue in their schooling for better future. Turn-over the custody to the parents with discharge agreement.

V. Conclusions

Based on the results and findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn.

1. On the demographic profile of the respondents

1.1 Respondents age ranges from 14 to 16 years old. It is “highly evident” that those 15 years old are more frequent age among the 30 respondents based on the results of the study. Most probably, during this period, most of the street children were developing into an adult which is the adolescent period. Wherein, children in this age group spend less time with parents and more time with friends, showing more independence with parents, and more concerned about future school,

1.2 In terms of sex, majority street children are male that involved as street dwellers than female. This study concludes that children frequent in the street are young men. Young ladies are less for following reasons, they are for the most part helping more younger siblings, they are typically employed as local partners inside private family units, they are tricked or trafficked into prostitution and are housed in massage parlors. It is conjectured that the male child is required to do less work at home than the female child,

1.3 In terms of the category of the street children, this study disclosed that majority of the children are “on the street” that had access to shelter or slept at home with parents or single parent, street children under this category wanted to earn money to support their education and some were saving money for the next school year. Children on the street were mainly vendors of cigarettes, candies, empty bottles, fruits, fish, or even some street children were searching money in a drainage,

1.4 On the educational background of the street child, based on the result of the study, some were stopped because of poverty, lacking to finance education and some chose to stay in the street to look for employment and to support the family and education. Children on the street were the least educated, they were street dwellers looking for employment to support their studies, and some had save money for the next school year. Apparently, the

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results disclosed that street children had stopped and did not continue education due to the increasing poverty and the family could no longer afford school fees,

1.5 In terms of street children economic activities, based on the results of the study, most of these children are itinerant vendors selling items like spices, cigarettes and candies, car wash water boy, working at a barbecue stand, dishwasher and any other odd jobs from which they can earn few pesos for their food and education,

1.6 In terms of street children's family background, the findings concerning occupational distribution of the parents of the 30 street children interviewed disclosed that almost all of the occupations in which parents of the street children are engaged of very low economic return. This study revealed that due to the income of the parents concerned, the researcher securely infers that majority of these street children are from extremely low income families. This reflects the fact that poverty contributes to the root cause of the problem of street children. Therefore, these children can no longer sustain their academic performance thus giving reason for them to drop on their studies, considering their parents' financial incapacity to afford their daily activities and finances in school,

1.7 On the present lifestyle of the street children, the results revealed that most male street children were, in sniffing contact adhesive/cement or rugby and smoking cigarette, exposed to risk and vulnerability due to peer pressures. Likewise, the use of intoxicants by street children can be viewed as a risk factor in a few areas including sexual abuse and infection with HIV. Furthermore, this study disclosed that most male street children respondents reported to have sex with people having the same sex for the sake of money. In line with this, the researcher concluded that social and economic factors appeared to be primary reasons why children push themselves

either to live in the streets or to spend most of their time in it.

2. On the government policies for street children, the LGUs assigned the CSWDOs to manned and protect the welfare of the street children. In Calbayog City, they cater non-formal education like; four fundamentals of Mathematics, writings, scribbling, reading the alphabet, prayers, songs, and showing family photograph for street children to motivate and encourage them to have an interest in education. Likewise, they deployed street-based implementer either non-formal educator and workers who does saturation drive to catch children living on the street, or those who are in computer/net establishments or those loitering during class hours. In the same manner, Tacloban City, offers educational assistance for children who wish to pursue education in the secondary and tertiary levels. Through the collaborative efforts of the above mentioned agencies, it will help to decrease the number of street children in their city.

3. On the status and challenges of street children, this study concluded that the NGOs alone are not enough to significantly reduce the number of children in the street, nor are they expected to do so. It is far more effective for NGOs to network and cooperate among themselves and with local governments if they hope to increase the long-term impact and sustainability of interventions in this area, and,

4. Furthermore, this study revealed that since the country is implementing an ALS a possibility is created for out-of-school youth, including street children, to be integrated into the learning system. The researcher suggests that these street children OSY should enroll in ALS which encompasses non-formal and informal education. This study disclosed that twenty-two out of 30 street children have no access to primary schooling. The significant number of out-of-school children is one of the major obstacles for achieving education for all.

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VI. References



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