AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE REASONS WHY STREET CHILDREN ARE ON THE STREETS. A CASE STUDY OF STREET CHILDREN LIVING IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OF HARARE, ZIMBABWE.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to investigate the reasons why street children are on the streets of Harare. The objectives of this research was to identify the reasons why street children are on the streets of Harare, to find out the challenges faced by the street children living on the streets of Harare and to identify polices in place to safeguard children. The researcher made use of the qualitative method of research. Purposive and snowball sampling methods were used as methods of sampling. The research found out that the major reasons why street children are on the streets are poverty and abuse, these children have challenges in obtaining food, shelter, health care, good hygiene and they are also victims of abuse. The research also identified policies that are in place to safe guard children. The researcher concluded that street children are an indicator of social disruption. Recommendation proposed by the research; the Ministry of labour and Social Welfare should create a special department that specifically focus on the plight of street children and the government of Zimbabwe should continue to implement policies that will solve the problem of street children.