

2022

## Stakeholders' Perspectives on Social Intervention Policy to Curb Street Children Influx in Ghana

Ismaila Hansmittson Awudu  
*Walden University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/dissertations>



Part of the [Public Administration Commons](#), and the [Public Policy Commons](#)

---

This Dissertation is brought to you for free and open access by the Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies Collection at ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [ScholarWorks@waldenu.edu](mailto:ScholarWorks@waldenu.edu).

# Walden University

College of Health Sciences and Public Policy

This is to certify that the doctoral dissertation by

Ismaila Hansmittson Awudu

has been found to be complete and satisfactory in all respects,  
and that any and all revisions required by  
the review committee have been made.

## Review Committee

Dr. Christopher Jones, Committee Chairperson,  
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Dr. Gary Kelsey, Committee Member,  
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Dr. Karen Shafer, University Reviewer,  
Public Policy and Administration Faculty

Chief Academic Officer and Provost  
Sue Subocz, Ph.D.

Walden University  
2022

Abstract

Stakeholders' Perspectives on Social Intervention Policy to Curb Street Children Influx  
in Ghana

by

Ismaila Hansmittson Awudu

M.Phil., Walden University, 2020

M.Phil., University of Professional Studies Ghana, 2012

BA, Central University Ghana, 2006

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Public Policy and Administration

Walden University

November, 2022

## Abstract

Increasing street children influx in Accra, Ghana is a challenge to the government, policymakers, and citizens despite the Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) of the Ghana Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to address this social problem. In 2018, an estimated 90,000 children lived on the streets in the Greater Accra Region. The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies and programs and the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx. Policy feedback theory was the theoretical foundation for the research. Semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted with nine stakeholders purposively drawn from the ministry, nongovernmental organizations, and other agencies associated with street children. Results of coding and hermeneutic analysis revealed the following themes: (a) The CFWP is seen positively but lacks adequate financial resources in its implementation; (b) stakeholders' consultation and collaboration are seen as ineffective, which affects the implementation and review of the policy; (c) monitoring and evaluation of the policy objectives are seen as ineffective due to institutional bureaucracy and bottlenecks; (d) street children influx is not adequately addressed; and, (e) there is no single budget allocation for the policy. Findings may draw the attention of government leaders, policymakers, and other stakeholders to the need for more funding of the CFWP. Findings may also lead to positive social change through academicians, policy think tanks, and civil society organizations regarding the effects of policy implementation on street children influx.

Stakeholders' Perspectives on Social Intervention Policy to Curb Street Children Influx

in Ghana

by

Ismaila Hansmittson Awudu

M.Phil., Walden University, 2020

M.Phil., University of Professional Studies Ghana, 2012

BA, Central University Ghana, 2006

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

Public Policy and Administration

Walden University

November, 2022

## Dedication

It goes without saying that the love, care, values, and discipline of my late parents, Mr Abdulahi Awudu and Madam Zinabu Haruna, of blessed memory have helped tremendously in shaping my life and making me aspire to this higher level. Although uneducated, they encouraged and supported us to get quality education, even with their meager resources.

In no uncertain terms without the patience, support, understanding, and sacrifices of my beloved wife, Mrs. Josephine Ismaila Awudu, this Ph.D. research and dissertation would have been difficult one and may not have been successful. I owe her much gratitude.

All of the respondents who availed themselves to be interviewed and everyone who helped and selflessly supported in kind and in resources for my Ph.D. process and the dissertation journey deserve much appreciation, including my organization, the International Central Gospel Church, and the assembly I pastor and administer, The New Wine Temple.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the following people for their unparalleled support on this dissertation journey:

Dr. Christopher B. Jones, you have been to me a caring, understanding, encouraging, supportive but firm chair who has made everything possible for me to complete this difficult task.

Dr. Gary A. Kelsey, your patience and critical mind and perfect collaboration with my chair kept me in check on my writing and analysis on the dissertation journey.

Dr. Karen Shafer, as my university research reviewer, you did well in critically reviewing my work and critiquing it to ensure I met all the standards as required to successfully complete my dissertation.

To the Writing Center, I thank you for your support in editing my work. I am grateful.

Finally, my sincerest thanks go to the entire Public Policy and Administration faculty and staff for their help and support, including my student advisor and Dr. Anne Hacker, for her wonderful coaching and tips offered on qualitative dissertations during my last virtual residency.

## Table of Contents

List of Tables .....	v
List of Figures .....	vi
Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study.....	1
Background of the Study .....	2
Problem Statement .....	5
Purpose of the Study .....	8
Research Question .....	9
Theoretical Foundation .....	9
Nature of the Study .....	11
Assumptions.....	12
Scope and Delimitations .....	13
Limitations .....	13
Significance of the Study .....	14
Summary and Transition.....	16
Chapter 2: Literature Review .....	18
Literature Search Strategy.....	18
Theoretical Foundation .....	19
Literature Review of Key Concepts.....	24
Rising Trend of Street Children .....	25
Causes of Street Children Influx.....	27
Street Children Phenomenon in Ghana.....	29



Basic Drivers of Influx.....	32
Poverty .....	33
Dysfunctional Families .....	35
Polygamy and Divorce.....	36
Culture and Values.....	38
Rural-Urban Migration .....	41
Rapid Urbanization .....	41
Breakdown of Extended Families and HIV/AIDS.....	44
Global Economy .....	46
Social Intervention Policies and Programs .....	48
Stakeholders’ Implementation Role.....	53
Stakeholder Challenges in Implementation .....	55
Summary .....	59
Chapter 3: Research Method.....	62
Research Design and Rationale .....	62
Philosophical Assumptions Underpinning the Research .....	64
Role of the Researcher .....	66
Research Methodology .....	67
Instrumentation .....	69
Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection .....	71
Data Collection Procedure .....	72
Data Analysis Plan .....	72

Issues of Trustworthiness.....	73
Credibility .....	73
Transferability.....	74
Dependability .....	74
Confirmability.....	75
Ethical Procedures .....	75
Summary .....	76
Chapter 4.....	77
Setting 77	
Demographics .....	78
Demographic Characteristics of Respondents .....	78
Data Collection .....	78
Data Analysis .....	79
Study Results .....	82
Theme 1: Experiences of Street Children .....	82
Theme 2: Effectiveness of the Child and Family Welfare Policy .....	86
Theme 3: Factors Accounting for the Street Children Influx in Ghana.....	101
Summary .....	104
Chapter 5.....	108
Interpretation of the Findings.....	111
Limitations of the Study.....	124
Recommendations.....	124

Implications.....	126
Conclusion .....	129
References.....	132
Appendix A: Letter of Introduction and Recruitment.....	156
Appendix B: Interview Questions.....	158

## List of Tables

Table 1. Codes for Theme Analysis.....	82
--	----

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Illustration of the Conceptual Framework of PFT on Addressing the Street Children Influx .....	12
Figure 2. Conceptual Framework on Addressing the Street Children Phenomenon in Ghana .....	24

## Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

The influx of street children is a growing trend in Ghana. Gyan (2016) posited that the street children phenomenon continues to increase even though social intervention policies aimed at preventing street children influx are continually being introduced by the government. The Ghana Statistical Service (2018) reported an estimated 90,000 street children in the Greater Accra Region. An important focus within the social protection space and policy debates is to understand the high influx of children living on the streets in major towns (Kakuru et al., 2019) and the impact of social intervention policies in curbing the problem. Children who are homeless constitute the largest vulnerable group, and their social protections remain far less developed than for the older population (Kamerman & Gatenio, 2006). Children on the street suffer from homelessness, poverty, neglect, abuse, preventable diseases and sickness, unequal access to education, and justice systems that do not recognize their special needs (United Nations Children's Fund [UNICEF], 2012). Many homeless children (hereafter referred to as "street children") suffer from depression, anxiety, and trauma, which then may lead to substance abuse and other risks (Gyan, 2016). To address the vulnerabilities and risks facing these children and help to safeguard their rights and human development, Ghana has implemented several social intervention policies and programs.

A study of stakeholders' perspectives on these social intervention policies and programs in curbing street children influx in Ghana was essential because it could help public administrators recognize the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the programs and policies, and to explore what is and is not working to curb the influx of children on

the streets. Oteng-Ababio et al. (2019) posited that stakeholders are involved in social intervention on both the policy formulation and implementation level and are critical for effective policy evaluation and future recommendations. My research provided perspectives on the efficacy and success of social intervention policy and program implementation and, potentially, recommendations regarding how future policies can be improved to reduce the street children population's growth. The findings of my research may help policymakers and public administrators be better informed about potential improvement in policy implementation for children who live on the street and to reduce their influx. This chapter presents the background, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, theoretical framework, nature of the study, definitions, assumptions, scope and delimitations, limitations, and the potential significance of the research.

### **Background of the Study**

The problem of child streetism has grown over the years and has become a recognized national and international issue. Ghana's population is estimated at 30 million with the majority living in the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Eastern, and Western region (Ghana Statistical Service, 2018), with an estimated 300,000 children living on the street (Department of Social Welfare [Department of Social Welfare,2019]). The influx of these children on the street is a worrying trend because life on the streets is a challenge to meet basic human needs and for access to health care services (Orme & Seipel, 2007). The exposure of these children on the street is made worse by the lack of education on sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS and other sexual and reproductive health

issues (Asare et al., 2006). Associated with these challenges are serious child and family welfare issues including traditional harmful practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation; exclusion of children with disabilities; and limited access to education for orphans, vulnerable children, and children with special needs.

The increasing street children population can be blamed on the increasing poverty and rural-urban migration. Adonteng-Kissi (2018) asserted that increasing poverty and rural-urban migration are factors associated with street children influx. Children whose parents are poor are likely to end up as street children (Adonteng-Kissi, 2018). This is because their parents do not have the means to look after them, and the children end up becoming beggars, and sellers on the streets (Percy, 2014). Also, many children move from rural areas to major towns in search of a better life (Boakye-Boaten, 2006; Mizen & Ofosu-Kusi, 2010). Awumbila et al. (2017) stated that children from northern Ghana migrate to Accra and other urban centers to look for employment opportunities. This confirmed what Asante (2015) noted that rural life induces young children to hunt for employment and to migrate to urban towns with opportunities for a better way of life. However, the hope of finding well-paying work in the city soon fades, and rural children are left to fend for themselves on the street (Mizen & Ofosu-Kusi, 2010).

To curb the growing problem of street children and to safeguard the rights of the vulnerable population, Ghana has ratified many international laws. Frimpong-Manso (2017) and Kwarteng (2016) posited that to ensure the survival of the basic needs of the child, the development of their full potential, and the protection of their rights and participation in decision making, Ghana ratified the Convention on the Rights of the



Child, and it is party to many other international instruments relating to child protection. Those include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2005, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the International Labor Organization Convention No.182 on the worst forms of child labor. The country also enacted the Children's Act in 1998 (Act 560) and the Domestic Violence Act in 2007 (Act 732) to protect children, women, and other vulnerable people against domestic violence. Ghana also enacted the Human Trafficking Act in 2005 (Act 694) to prohibit trafficking, abduction, child marriage, or exploitation of people, including children (Frimpong-Manso, 2017; Kwarteng, 2016). In addition to these legal frameworks, Ghana also developed policies to protect the welfare of the child and family, which include the National Plan of Action on Child Labor and the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 2009,2015; the National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children 2010–2015; the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy, 2004; the National Domestic Violence Policy and Plan of Action; and the National Social Protection Policy, 2016. From these actions, it seems clear that the government of Ghana has provided the legal and policy frameworks to protect Ghanaian children from neglect, abuse, and exploitation on the street.

However, the number of street children in the Greater Accra region keeps increasing (Anarfi & Appiah, 2009; Frempong et al, 2010). The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2018) estimated the total number of street children in the Greater Accra Region to be over 90,000. Many street children in Ghana are vulnerable for want of safety and protection. This undesirable and continuing street children phenomenon prompted the

current study addressing the perspectives of various stakeholders to explore the effectiveness of social intervention policies and programs in curbing the influx of street children in Ghana.

Studies of the perceptions of stakeholders regarding the increase of street children and the success or lack thereof of Ghana's social intervention policies were minimal. There was little available research on perceptions of why there is a continuously increasing number of street children, or the opinions about efficacy of social intervention policies. Much of the research on street children in Ghana has concentrated on the street children themselves: abuse, susceptibility to abuse, survival, their livelihood strategies, the exploitation of street children, the vulnerability of street children, and the coping mechanisms of street children (Asante et al., 2016; Awatey, 2014; Ba-ama et al., 2013; Boafo-Arthur, 2015; Sifa, 2015; Tettegah, 2012). The current study was a departure from previous research by shifting the focus to a selection of stakeholders and the exploration of their perspectives on the intervention program successes or lack thereof. I addressed the gap in research on street children, particularly as it relates to the influx issue. The research plan was informed by the aspirations of the 2015 Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) from stakeholder perspectives. Research on social intervention policy in curbing street children influx in Ghana may expand the knowledge base regarding stakeholders' perspectives and experience.

### **Problem Statement**

The increasing number of children living on the streets of Accra is a challenge to the government and policymakers despite the CFWP by the Ministry of Gender, Children

and Social Protection (MOGCSP) to help in addressing this social problem. The number of street children keeps increasing much to the dismay of government, policymakers, and city dwellers. In view of this social problem, there was a need to seek stakeholders' perspectives on the effectiveness of the CFWP as a social intervention policy to curb the influx of street children.

Greater Accra Region is noted for its commercial activities and other services. Many young people from various regions in the country throng the region to seek a livelihood though they often have no families there. The population of the region keeps increasing with diverse reasons accounting for that. Poverty, drugs, family pressures, death of parents, and the desire to migrate are the major reasons why the population keeps increasing (Asante et al.). This phenomenon causes growth in population, thereby placing great stress on the resources available and great challenges to city authorities regarding management. Many of the children are exposed to multiple risks, including economic insecurity and health risks (Oteng-Ababio et al., 2019). Social interventions for street children do not appear to have been adequate over the years because of lack of societal feedback and inadequate data about the social problem. For this reason, understanding the stakeholders' perspectives on the impact of social intervention programs and policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana was needed.

Studies on the influx of street children despite Ghana's social intervention policies have not received needed attention by stakeholders or researchers. In my review of the literature, I found minimal research on why there has been a continuous increase in the number of street children even though there have been innovative social intervention

policies and programs. Many of the studies on street children in Ghana have focused on the exploitation of street children, the vulnerability of street children, and the coping mechanisms of street children (Asante et al., 2016; Awatey, 2014; Ba-ama et al., 2013; Boafo-Arthur, 2015; Sifa, 2015; Tettegah, 2012). The current study was a departure from previous studies and addressed why the street children phenomenon continues to increase in Ghana. Various studies have considered causes of the street children phenomenon, their engagement in risky sexual behavior, and the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in the street population (Anarfi, 1997; Boakye-Boaten, 2008; Kumoji et al., 2002; Oduro, 2012; Orme & Seipel, 2007; Quarshie, 2011), yet there was little knowledge of the life, coping, and survival strategies of the street children in Accra. There appeared to be a knowledge gap in understanding the influx phenomenon.

Although Ghana has made legislative and policy efforts to promote the well-being of vulnerable and marginalized children (Issahaku & Neysmith, 2013; Pino & Confalonieri, 2014), researchers have not reviewed these policies in terms of their comprehensiveness and expected impact. My research results may help fill this gap in the literature. An assessment of the scope and potential impact of the CFWP focused on how it builds on contemporary social science understanding of the street children social problem; how it conforms to standards set out in the UN Convention of The Rights of the Child, the 1992 Fourth Republic Constitution of Ghana (Article 28), and the Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560, Section 1); and how it aims to protect children, resourced families, and communities from reducing poverty, discourage rural-urban migration, and lead to a reduction in the number of street children in the urban areas. The analysis of Ghana's

policy efforts was meant to highlight what is currently happening and what needs to happen for CFWP in Ghana. My research provides perspectives on the impact of CFWP and its challenges in curbing the influx of street children.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the research was to explore stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies and programs in curbing street children influx, and how the implementation of the CFWP by MOGCSP has been perceived to meet the needs of the children. To achieve the purpose of this study, I employed an interpretivist research paradigm. Interpretivism posits that people may see the same thing differently and come to varied conclusions due to the various cognitive, experiential, and other lenses they use (Gephart, 1999). People construct understanding based on detail and specificities and shared meaning. Gephart (1999) argued that interpretivists assume that knowledge and meaning are acts of interpretation; hence, there is no objective knowledge independent of humans' thinking and reasoning. In summary, the goals of this study were (a) to examine the major causes of the influx of street children phenomenon, (b) to outline the perceptions on CFWP and systems implementation in helping build the capacity of institutions and service providers to curb street children influx, and (c) to examine the perceived impacts of CFWP programs and activities in preventing and protecting children on street from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation.

### **Research Question**

The central research question guiding the study was the following: How do stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Ghana?

### **Theoretical Foundation**

Policy feedback theory was used as the theoretical foundation for my research. This theory was appropriate for the study because I elicited stakeholders' perceptions and experience (feedback) on the policies aimed at curbing street children influx, including those implementing the initiative. In the public policy literature, policy feedback theory can be traced to the late 1980s and 1990s through several historical institutionalist scholars of public policy (Hall, 1986; Pierson, 1993; Skocpol, 1992; Steinmo et al., 1992). However, policy feedback theory gained prominence in 1992 through the work of Skocpol who argued that policy shapes states' capacity and social groups by seeking to explore mechanisms through which public policies reshape social and state actors' interests and capacities over extended periods in ways that change the prospects for the policies' future maintenance, expansion, or reversal (Pierson 1993; Skocpol, 1992; Weible & Sabatier, 2017).

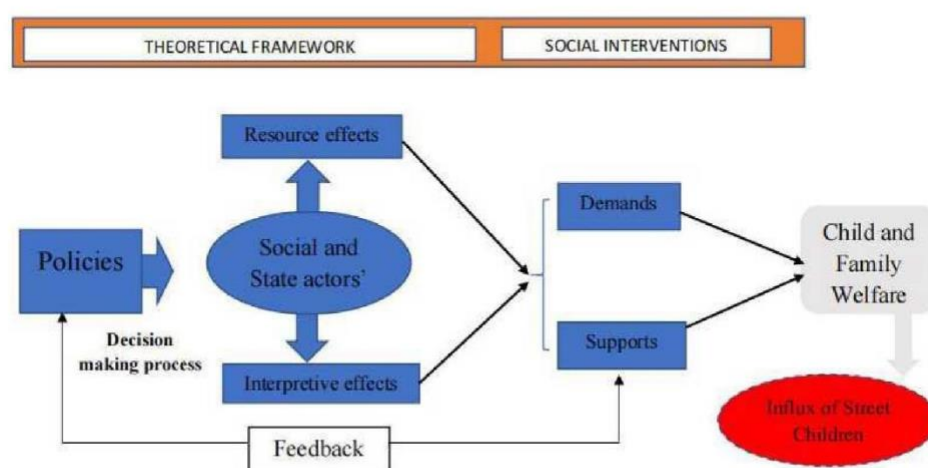
Policy feedback theory has its roots in historical institutionalism (Pierson, 1993) and has more recently through the work of Skocpol (1992) to explore mechanisms through which public policies reshape social and state actors' interests and capacities over long periods of time in ways that change the prospects for the policies' future maintenance, expansion, or reversal. Pierson (1993) identified ways in which policy

design can incentivize actors to participate in the policymaking process and shape the political conditions. This early work addressed the influence of policy through two factors: resource effects and interpretive effects. This work addressed the resource and interpretative effects on target populations and mass publics, the roles of policy elites, and how feedback effects are conditioned by policy designs and larger institutional contexts (Edmondson et al., 2019).

The policy outcomes afford feedback that helps to assess the impact of social intervention policies such as the CWFPP in addressing the issue of homeless urban children. Policy feedback theory helped me interrogate the policies to better understand their perceived effectiveness in addressing the influx of street children in Ghana based on the stakeholders' perspectives and experience and insight into whether and how feedbacks are informing the implementation process. Figure 1 illustrates my theoretical foundation of how the theory and stakeholder perspectives may reflect the impact of social intervention policies and their effects on the influx of children living on the street. The resource effects describe the tangible resources that the policy mix bestows on social and state actors, providing information and benefits. The policy mix also produces interpretive effects, providing information, understanding, and meaning (Pierson, 1993), thereby creating or changing visions and expectations of actors (Edmondson et al., 2019). Policy design choices create multiple policy effects, and this form of feedback can influence existing policies.

**Figure 1**

Illustration of the Conceptual Framework of Policy Feedback Theory on addressing the Street Children Influx



The CFWP was enacted and implemented to influence the political behavior of stakeholders such as governments, interest groups such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and citizens on the rights of the child and the protection of street children and other vulnerable groups. By using the policy feedback theory as a lens for this study, I was able to explore how stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, and citizens) assess the effectiveness of the CFWP as an interpretive policy for safeguarding the rights and protection of street children and their influx in urban areas, especially Greater Accra Region.

### Nature of the Study

I adopted a generic qualitative design for data collection and analysis to examine the influx of street children from the stakeholders' perspective. I conducted in-depth face-



to-face interviews with stakeholders for data collection, allowing stakeholders to articulate their perceptions and experience on the continued influx of children in the Greater Accra Region despite the implementation of the social intervention policies such as the CFWP. A purposive sampling technique was employed in selecting representatives of stakeholder groups. This sampling technique is the typical sampling method for qualitative studies to provides in-depth, rich information within limited resources (Palinkas et al., 2015). The reasons for adopting such sampling techniques were identifying the most appropriate participants to provide in-depth views and insights to answer the research question.

The data were analyzed with the aid of qualitative data analysis software. The audio recording of the data was initially transcribed and coded. Thematic analysis (see Attride-Stirling, 2001; Braun & Clarke, 2006) and Atlas.ti were used to analyze the data. I adopted this method to produce an analysis of the objectives of the study. The approach complemented the in-depth nature of the research question by facilitating a deep dive using open-ended interview questions to explore the strategic objectives of the CFWP through stakeholder interview data.

### **Assumptions**

Several assumptions underscored this research. The first assumption was that the influx of street children presupposes ineffective implementation of social intervention policies to curb the situation. Second, selecting a qualitative approach for this research was based on the assumption that more themes would be generated to understand the perceived causes of street children influx and the efficacy of social intervention policies

in curbing it through stakeholders' experiences of the phenomenon. Third, I employed face-to-face interviews as my data collection tool with the assumption that it would get me close to the participants' subjective views on the phenomenon of street children influx and the role of social intervention policies in curbing the influx. Finally, I adopted an interpretive research paradigm with the assumption that it would help explore the influx of street children phenomenon in Ghana from stakeholders' perspectives based on their individual and collective experiences.

### **Scope and Delimitations**

Streetism is a broad concept, so it was explored within the context of stakeholders' perspective on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana looking at the scope and potential impact of CFWP, coping and survival strategies of street children, and the major causes of the influx of street children. The units of analysis for the research were drawn from the various stakeholders who are representatives of the MOGCSP (DSW), management units of various social protection programs, and non-for-profit organizations.

### **Limitations**

Study limitations place restrictions on the design and methodology of research, thereby influencing the researcher's findings and conclusions. Price and Judy (2004) posited that limitations are the constraints and the unanticipated emerging challenges beyond the researcher's ability or control during the research. This means that the researcher comes across potential methodology and design challenges that impact their findings. A study of this nature came with diverse challenges unknown to me.

The first limitation of the current study came from the data collected. Given the study's objective, I was limited to collecting data from selected stakeholders. Although I was able to reach saturation by the time I got to the ninth person, it would have been ideal if the study data collected would have involved many more agencies and stakeholders in dealing with street children and CFWP across Ghana. The second limitation was the scope. I was limited to collecting my data only in Accra. Although there are 16 regions in Ghana, this limitation was due to logistical and time constraints. The third limitation of the study was that it was restricted to stakeholders' perspectives on the CFWP without the involvement of the street children to know how the CFWP has impacted them.

### **Significance of the Study**

The study was relevant because influx of street children to major cities has become a concern not only for stakeholders but also for the country and the world. The need to be concerned about children living on the street cannot be understated. More and more children are on the streets of major cities across the world for various economic, social, and political reasons with attendant negative effects. Children living on the streets tend to resort to crude, informal economic approaches to make ends meet. This situation as a whole warranted examination of the causes of the influx of children to the streets of Greater Accra Region and the potential impact of CFWP on curbing the street children phenomenon.

In terms of practice, the findings of the study could serve as the reference for evaluating social intervention policies by policymakers in Ghana. The findings may help policymakers adjust the current policy or develop a new policy framework for children

who live and make a living on the street while efforts are made to curb the growing population of street children. My research may provide a better understanding of the social welfare issue (trafficking, abduction, child marriage, or exploitation of children) to ensure effective implementation of the social intervention policies.

Findings may be of value to several institutions: the MOGCSP, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana Health Service (GHS), the National Health Insurance Authority, the district assemblies, and development partners who are currently supporting the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, and 11, which are relevant to the well-being of all people, particularly street children. CFWP is anchored in Ghana's national development planning arrangements as well as a range of sectorial policies and programs including the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP), Ghana School Feeding Program, the National Health Insurance Scheme, and the Free Senior High School program. Realizing sustainable development is vital because street children must be cushioned against impoverishment, enabled to realize their basic rights, and enabled to have access to basic health care services. The findings of the study may benefit aid institutions and other stakeholders regarding effective strategies to adopt to improve the implementation of the CFWP, which aims to protect and safeguard the rights and welfare of street children in attainment of the SDG goals to reduce the number of street children in urban areas.

Finally, the study may provide further research in the arena of child protection with reference to social intervention policy. It was imperative to understand from the standpoint of stakeholders how street children live and cope with economic and social

challenges. Relevant information on how street children survive under harsh conditions may improve child and family welfare services. The study may be an insightful document contributing to the child protection literature, which can be used for secondary analysis or reviewed by prospective researchers and/or students to inspire empirical studies on social intervention policies.

### **Summary and Transition**

In this chapter, the rationale for my study was explained, and an overview of the thesis was provided. The chapter provided the context within which the study was conducted as well as the background and gaps that were addressed. The introduction of the study situated the context and scope of the study. It informed the reader about the influx of street children in Ghana and its attending sociocultural problems despite social intervention policies to curb it. The background of the study revealed the influx of street children by enumerating the emergence of the phenomenon as a social problem and the causes that require research into the phenomenon from stakeholders' perspective. The problem statement revealed the challenges associated with the influx of street children in Ghana, especially in the Greater Accra region, although the CFWP and other local and international legislation has been promulgated to protect the rights of this vulnerable group. The study's purpose was to explore stakeholders' perspective on social interventions policies and programs in curbing street children influx, and how the implementation of the CFWP by MOGCSP has met the needs of the children. The central research question guiding the research was the following: How do stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Ghana?

The theoretical framework guiding the research was the policy feedback theory as a lens to better understand stakeholder perceptions and experience on the policies aimed at curbing street children influx, including the actors implementing the policies affecting street children. I used a qualitative design for data collection and analysis to examine the influx of street children from the stakeholders' perspective. I used in-depth face-to-face interviews of stakeholders for data collection, allowing stakeholders to articulate their perceptions and experience on the continued influx of street children in the Greater Accra Region despite the implementation of the social intervention policies. The assumptions were examined, such as researcher beliefs that may have had a bearing on the research findings. The scope and delimitation of the study covered stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana. The chapter also addressed issues of trustworthiness, interview approach, and my epistemological assumptions. Finally, the significance of the study was presented, which captured the importance of the study in relation to practice, social intervention policy formulation in curbing street children influx, social change, and further academic research. *Chapter 2* contains the literature review in which I discuss existing research in the field.

## Chapter 2: Literature Review

The increasing number of children living on the streets of Accra presents a challenge to the government and policymakers despite the CFWP by the MOGCSP to help in addressing this social problem. In view of this social problem, there was the need to seek stakeholder perspectives on the effectiveness of the CFWP as a social intervention policy to curb the influx of street children. The purpose of the study was to explore stakeholders perspectives on social interventions in curbing street children influx, and how well the implementation of CFWP by the MOGCSP has met the needs of the children.

This chapter includes a review of relevant literature on stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana. It identifies scholarly contributions to the research area and provides a foundation for the current study. The chapter is divided into two parts: theoretical literature and literature related to key themes and variables. This chapter provides a broad review of the extant literature on the global trend of street children influx, the street children phenomenon in Ghana, causes of street children, social intervention policies for street children, stakeholder roles in implementing social intervention policies in Ghana, and a summary and conclusion.

### **Literature Search Strategy**

The literature review was based on examination and review of research and writing in public policy literature. The search for relevant literature on stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx was challenging because there had been little research on social intervention policies in

curbing street children influx from the perspective of stakeholders. Different methods were used to gather and analyze the literature. The first step in the literature review was to search using Google Scholar. Keywords searched included *street children, homelessness, rural-urban migration, characteristics of street children, problems of street children, consequences of street children, risk factors of street children, child rights, social intervention policies and programs, causes of street children, theories on street children, influx of street children, and street children resilience.*

Second, research on three databases on public policy was examined. The databases were JSTOR Public Policy, Project Gutenberg, and PAIS International. When the keywords were searched in JSTOR public policy, 200 journals/articles were found, of which 150 were deemed to be appropriate for the study. The search in Project Gutenberg produced 80 relevant articles while the search in PAIS International produced 70 relevant articles.

### **Theoretical Foundation**

Policy feedback theory was used as the theoretical lens for the study to understand the phenomenon of the rising influx of street children. The emergence of the policy feedback theory could be traced to the late 1980s and 1990s through the writings of several institutionalist scholars of public policy (Hall, 1986; Pierson, 1993; Skocpol, 1992; Steinmo et al., 1992). However, policy feedback theory gained prominence in 1992 through the work of Skocpol who explored mechanisms through which public policies reshape social and state actors' interests and capacities over extended periods in ways that change the prospects for the policies' future maintenance, expansion, or reversal



(Pierson, 1993; Skocpol, 1992; Weible & Sabatier, 2017). Policy feedback theory can help researchers better understand how social elites and decision makers align with the citizens' aspirations through resource mobilization and equitable distribution of limited resources. Policy framework becomes the vehicle for the articulation and aspirations of elites and their social contract with citizens. Pierson (1993) identified how policy design could incentivize actors to participate in the policymaking process and shape the political conditions. This early work addressed policy's influence through two factors: resource effects and interpretive effects. It addressed the resource and interpretive effects on target populations and the mass public, on policy elites' roles, and how feedback effects are conditioned by policy designs and larger institutional contexts (Weible & Sabatier, 2017).

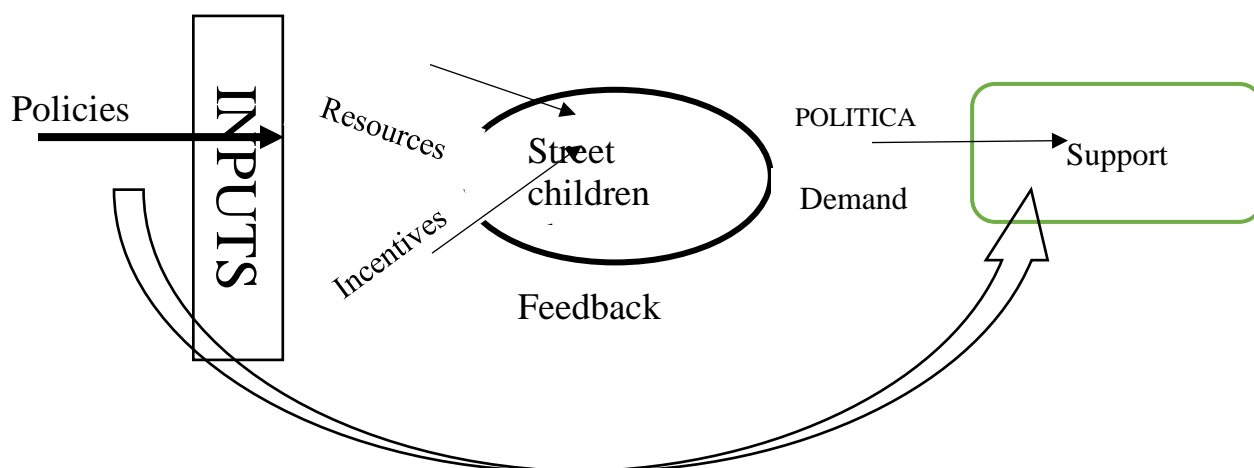
Drawing on the practice and writings of these institutionalist scholars, I used the policy feedback theory to understand the role of CFWP and related programs in curbing street children influx. Policy feedback theory helped me understand how policies generate resources and incentives for political actors and how they provide those actors with information (feedback) and cues that encourage interpretations of the political world and future policy directives. The theory also helps explain how policies shape politics due to policy outcomes based on its implementation effect on the government elites, citizens, groups of people, and issues it is meant to address (Weible & Sabatier, 2017). The policy outcomes afford feedback that helps to assess the effectiveness of a policy, such as the CFWP's overall performance in addressing an issue. The design and the effective implementation of a policy are dependent on the resources allocated and the outcome, which is the feedback (Weible & Sabatier, 2017).

In the case of Ghana, the CFWP implemented by the MOGCSP affords the government the opportunity needed and the feedback to address the street children phenomenon. I expected that programs designed to mitigate the influx of street children through interventions would have policy feedback elements. The policy feedback theory helped me interrogate the CFWP to better understand its perceived effectiveness in addressing the influx of street children in Ghana based on the stakeholders' perspectives and experience and insight into whether and how feedback is informing the implementation process.

Figure 2 shows the practicality of the policy feedback theory in addressing street children influx from policy perspective. Policies provides the needed inputs that political actors need such as resources and incentives to meet the demands of the populace and provide support for the vulnerable groups such as street children. This intervention translates into feedback on the viability of the social intervention policy implemented. Using the policy feedback theory as the theoretical lens in assessing the feedback of the effectiveness of CFWP in curbing street children influx from stakeholders' perspective was appropriate because it helped me address the research purpose.

**Figure 2**

*Conceptual Framework on Addressing the Street Children Phenomenon in Ghana*



This study helped me elicit feedback from stakeholders about the viability of the CFWP as a social intervention policy in helping to curb the influx of street children. This feedback may help the government (political actor), NGOs, and policymakers better evaluate the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx.

This assertion is supported by the case studies of early articulators of the policy feedback theory. Pierson (1993) argued that enacted policies influence the political behaviors of government aristocrats, organized interest groups, and citizens through two primary pathways. First, as interpretive effects, policies serve as sources of information and meaning, thereby affecting political learning and attitudes; second, policies serve as a resource effect by providing means and incentives for political activity (Pierson, 1993). The CFWP elements were enacted and implemented to influence the political behavior of stakeholders such as governments, agencies and departments, and interest groups such as NGOs regarding the welfare of street children and other vulnerable groups, and

resourcing of poor families to take care of their children through information dissemination, sensitization, advocacy, and resource availability.

According to Weible and Sabatier (2017), policy feedback theory has been applied to a wide array of political situations, with scholars focused on four major streams of inquiry. The first two streams of inquiry by the historical institutionalist tradition emphasized the rationale of path dependence to explain the constraint previous policies brought to bear on future policymaking. This assertion alluded to the fact that the effectiveness of future policies depends on the feedback of previous policies. The CFWP feedback from stakeholders on how equitable resources were allocated for programs and how effective those programs were in helping curb street children influx may help shape future policies in curbing street children influx. Weible and Sabatier further asserted that policies affect political agendas and the definition of policy problems, which has consequences for how issues are understood by political actors and which ones they prioritize according to the first stream of the policy feedback inquiry. This stream explains the implementation stages of CFWP in curbing street children influx.

The second stream of policy feedback inquiry explains that policy affects governance by impacting its capacity and public officials' political learning in the implementation of government policies as the administrators of government resources (Weible & Sabatier, 2017). For instance, the MOGCSP, in its implementation of CFWP, was allocated resources based on a budget of its sector. This budget may or may not have been channeled to address the government's agenda of the curbing of street children influx based on the public officials' political persuasion and learning. Eliciting feedback

of the CFWP from the stakeholders' perspective in curbing street children influx may help to evaluate the policy outcome.

The third stream of policy feedback inquiry states that the power of organized interest groups is influenced by policies. Governments through civil society groups, NGOs, and other stakeholders collaborate to carry out certain government programs such as the curbing of street children influx and other cooperate social responsibilities. This allows eliciting their feedback on the CFWP because they are major stakeholders in assessing government policies.

Policies also shape the meaning of citizenship, which is the fourth stream of the policy feedback inquiry. This stream shows what type of relationship will exist between citizens and the political actor (government) based on pragmatic policies that address their plight. This is crucial because government policies are perceived by the citizenry to address their challenges. The street child as a citizen hopes to see their plight attended to by the government through policies such as the CFWP. Therefore, the stakeholders' feedback on the CFWP performance may be relevant for future policy directives and citizens' relationship with the political actor (government). Policy feedback theory was suited for my research because it helped me better understand the CFWP from stakeholders' perspectives through the lens of the streams of policy feedback inquiry.

### **Literature Review of Key Concepts**

This section provides an account of key variables, concepts, debates, and studies related to stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies intended to curb the rising influx of street children.

## **Rising Trend of Street Children**

Globally, the rising trend of street children is staggering due to a myriad of issues. UNICEF (2012) estimated that globally there are more than 1 billion homeless children due to many problems including poverty, child abuse, domestic violence, tribal wars, hunger, peer pressure, and cultural and religious issues. This number is expected to grow due to increased world population and urbanization (UNICEF, 2012). By 2016, Africa had about 3 million street children in challenging and deplorable conditions (World Bank, 2006), and the numbers continue to grow.

Asante (2015) stated that the number of street children in Greater Accra has increased from 35,000 to 90,000 in the last 5 years, a very disturbing phenomenon to city dwellers, policymakers, and the government. The Catholic Action for Street Children (2010), a religious NGO, researched street children in Accra in 2010 and indicated that there were about 35,000 street children in Accra in 2009. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC, 2012) revealed that 50,000 or more children were living and working on the streets of Ghana. The DSW in their 2012 report indicated that approximately 61,492 children were living on the streets of the Greater Accra Region as of 2011 under substandard conditions (Asante 2016). In 2015 the DSW reported that more than 70,000 children were homeless in the Greater Accra Region. The GSS (2018) also estimated the total number of street children in the Greater Accra Region to be over 90,000. The causes of the rising trend of street children are usually attributed to adverse poverty and rural-urban migration, which seems also to be the case in the increasing trend of street children in Ghana (Adonteng-Kissi, 2018).

Children who are from low-income families and the most neglected, abused, and molested culturally, domestically, and religiously in Ghana are likely to find themselves on the streets (Adonteng-Kissi, 2018; Percy, 2014). Mizen and Ofosu-Kusi (2010) also asserted that economic factors such as poverty cause children to move from rural areas to major cities such as Accra and Kumasi in search of a better life and freedom from societal, cultural, and domestic abuse by engaging in menial jobs to make a living on the street. Children end up forming alliances with other street children and end up as a family as they master their resilience and survival for a living (Boakye-Boateng, 2006). These underlining factors of rural-urban migration and adverse poverty seem to cause the rising trend of street children in Ghana (Adonteng-Kissi, 2018). The phenomenon of the continuous rise of street children influx brings to the fore the implication of the role of stakeholders in curbing the street children influx in Ghana, which the CFWP was created to address.

CFWP is in line with the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, the 1992 Fourth Republic Constitution of Ghana (Article 28) and the Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560, Section 1). CFWP aimed to protect children, resourced families, and communities from reducing poverty, discourage rural-urban migration, and lead to a reduction in the number of street children in the urban areas. Nonetheless, the problem of the influx of street children in Ghana remains a considerable task to deal with (Dankwa, 2018). Asante (2015) asserted that there has been an exponential growth of street children on the streets of Ghana despite the introduction of the CFWP by the government as a

stakeholder due to poverty, rural-urban migration, economic disparity, urbanization, and tribal and religious conflicts.

### **Causes of Street Children Influx**

UNICEF (2016) reported that Africa has an estimated 10 million street children due to poverty, economic disparities, political instability, disasters, and socio-cultural problems (UNICEF, 2016). Researchers have also attested to the challenges of street children influx globally. They posited that the world population of 1.2 billion live in the poverty bracket, with half being street children living and working on developing nations' streets under inhuman conditions (Galata & Sofiya, 2019; Kwankye et al., 2007; Lindenberg, 2001).

Though the influx of street children in Africa can largely be attributed to poverty, there are other related causes such as displaced homes, famine, inter-tribal wars, political instability, refugee, rural-urban migration, domestic violence (sexual and physical), breakdown of the external family system, household dissolution (divorce, separation), big family size, urbanization, broken homes, unemployment, peer pressure and freedom from parental control have also been contributing factors (Jeffery & Johnson, 2019). Endris and Sitota (2019) stated that Sub-Saharan Africa is among the world's fastest urbanization regions in the developing world. Famine, population pressure, poverty, political instability, environmental degradation, lack of proper health services, illiteracy, poor sanitation, unemployment, underdevelopment, war, ethnic conflict, displacement, migration, and HIV/AIDS has adversely contributed to Africa's urbanization leading to the influx of street children (Endris & Sitota, 2019).



The literature on the influx of street children by scholars has also attributed the growing number of street children worldwide to first unsatisfactory living conditions at homes, which has necessitated children on their initiative to migrate unto the street (Bhukuth & Ballet 2015; Felseman, 1989; Lucchini, 1996). Aderinto (2000) posited that most of these children purposively leave their homes onto the street due to hunger to look for a living since their parents are unable to take care of them. Other scholarly works like Rizzini and Lusk (1995) on Latin America, Hecht (1998) on Brazil, and Peacock (1994) work on Africa, have also cited financial reasons as the push factors that have lured children onto the street, thereby causing the influx of street children. Apterkar (1994) stated that in Colombia, 48% of the children found on the streets are there because of financial reasons; hence poverty is also a decisive factor of the influx of street children on the street.

According to Lalor (1999), abuse and neglect of children are also a contributory factor that pushes children unto the street due to family disintegration, parental separation or divorce, death of parents, and remarriage. This brings harsh conditions to bear on the children through physical and verbal abuse, molestation, starvation, over-working, and emotional torture. Thus, compels the children to run away unto the streets for solace, and invariably end up living on the street permanently (Bibas, 1998; Lalor, 1999; Martins, 1996; Swart-Kruger & Donald, 1996).

According to Bhukuth and Ballet (2015), 62% of children interviewed on the streets attributed their street life to parental neglect, lack of supervision and affection. While 82% of these children stated child abuse by a family or at work as reasons for

leaving home onto the street (Bhukuth & Ballet, 2015; UNICEF, 2001). Abdelgalil et al. (2004) argued that poverty by single parents is more likely to produce street children as the case in Acaruja in Brazil. Single females head 46% of households with only 7% headed by a single male (Abdelgalil et al., 2004). This phenomenon is necessitated by broken homes, which stems from death (especially HIV/AIDS), separation or divorce, and war (Matchilda, 1999; Lalor, 1999; Aderinto, 2000; Veal & Dona, 2003).

The world significantly has witnessed a risen trend in child streetism and its extent and nature are probably the most challenging social problem in urban areas of the developing world. Its dimension, nature, and associated reasons historically could be attributed to the economic, political, societal wellbeing of a nation, traditional and cultural ramification, institutional interventions, social cohesion and prevailing peace (Endris & Sitota, 2019; Veale, 1996). The inability of many countries to tackle these problems has giving surge to the street children influx phenomenon globally (Jeffrey & Johnson, 2019). This world phenomenon lends credence to Ghana's challenge of street children influx, which calls for an in-depth investigation into the phenomenon.

### **Street Children Phenomenon in Ghana**

Ghana has had its fair share of the phenomenon of street children. The country has a long history of both internal and external migration, which can be traced back to the period of pre-independence (Kwankye et al., 2007; Kwankye et al., 2009). In the history of Ghana, internal migrants were most often than not adult males who migrated from northern Ghana to look for employment opportunities in the southern sector of the country. They came looking for employment in the mining sector, in cocoa growing, and

palm production. However, recent developments show that there has been a shift in this trend. Most internal migrants that move to Accra are aged between 10 and 24. Migration to Accra offers employment opportunities, skills development, and training (Bartlett, 2009; Kwankye et al., 2007). Many of the unskilled children who move from rural areas to Accra engage in menial jobs (Boakye-Yiadom & MacKay, 2006). These unskilled migrants end up working in the informal sector, engaged in jobs that need very minimal or no education and skills, mostly as head porters, petty traders, and hawkers. (Hashim, 2007). Migrants experience many problems because of rapid urbanization, and among these are inadequate accommodation, absence of running water, poor sanitation, and exposure to pollutants (Bartlett, 2009).

Street children in Ghana encounter several challenges. Children leave the house in anticipation that they will better their life by doing something on their own. Beauchemin (1999) posited those financial reasons resulting from the death of parents or dependents, unemployment, and the complex African family system has contributed to child streetism in Ghana. The increasing number of street children has been at the doorstep of broken homes and the breakdown of the extended family systems (Beauchemin, 1999).

Increasing poverty and Western culture influences on the Ghanaian culture has weakened the extended family system in that the traditional Ghanaian culture of extended family members, such as aunts and uncles taking care of nephews and nieces, has in recent times come under severe attack due to globalization and it is attending universal family system (Beauchemin, 1999). Beauchemin (1999) found in his study that the loss of a parent(s) and the consequential effect of financial hardships are one of the reasons why children

drop out of school and find themselves on the street. Single parenting, divorce, and separation expose children to domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, and emotional distress that results in the children leaving home.

Ballet (2013) expounded that some customs, norms of certain societies and religious beliefs in Ghana also result in women giving birth to as many children as possible. These cultures oppose family planning, which causes women to have more children than they are capable of because they may feel that children provide recognition by society. Thus, many children are born without their parents having the resource to care for them (Ballet, 2013). This makes it easier for these children to move out of the home to attempt to make it on their own and, more often than not, they end up becoming street children. Polygamy, which is extensively practiced in Ghana, heightens the problem of streetism. Polygamous families are usually large and may result in rivalry among wives. This customary accepted marital practice also creates an unhealthy competition among rival children for educational space, father's attention, workload sharing and this invariable breed tension. It aggravates household pressures that force the children to leave home unto the street for freedom (Ballet, 2013).

Historically, there are cultural attitudes in Ghana that help explain why many girls are seen on the streets as compared to boys (Yeboah & Yeboah, 2009). Girls in some societies or cultures are regarded as unimportant. They are frequently asked to stay at home to do the house chores and support their mothers in taking care of the household or are forced into early marriage (Beauchenim, 1999). Beauchenim (1999) asserted that as a result, these girls are not allowed to go to school and are made to engage in petty trading,

farming and as domestic household helps under harsh conditions. Hence, moving to the cities to look for work becomes a viable option for them (Beauchenim,1999).

### **Basic Drivers of Influx**

The causes of street children influx are varied. Khamala (2000) posited that they are often related to domestic, economic, or social disruption including, but not limited to: poverty, breakdown of homes and/or families; political unrest, acculturation, sexual, physical, or emotional abuse; domestic violence; lured away by pimps, Internet predators, or begging syndicates; mental health problems; substance abuse; and, sexual orientation or gender identity issues.

Children may end up on the streets due to other cultural factors. For example, some children in parts of Africa are made to leave their family because they are suspected to be witches who bring bad luck upon their family. According to Kamala et al. (2001), most of street children leave home because of different factors such as parental inability to cope with demands brought about by rapid economic change to instabilities in families. Most street children take to streets to look for a job because there is no money for education, school uniform costs, and activity fees. They are influenced by parents to go to the streets so that aid groups or the government can help them (ANPPCAN,1995). When children are sexually abused by relatives or forced to commit crimes children escape from them and end up on the street in town and cities. Children whose parents fail to send them to school or who are withdrawn by parent from school to do domestic work, take care of the cattle, sheep of the local landlords to earn income for the family, they run away to the street where they can work and sleep when they want.

Children affected with mental health issues end up on the street on their own initiatives or are driven away by the parents who see these children as a burden. Bose (1998) further noted war and ethnic conflict make families homeless or force them into refugee camps, and then children run away from camps to the streets. Love affairs between girls and boys and severe objection from the parents due to caste or tribe factor force them to run to town and cities and work and live on street till they find a place in a slum. Another research conducted by Ruto (1999) attributed the presence of children in the streets to “push” factors such as poverty, war, drought, family dysfunction and death of a parent as well as “pull” factors like following friends or believing that there are good things to discover on the street. Muraya (1993) identified other push factors as use of corporal punishment, occasional escapades to the streets, truancy from school and idleness due to lack of schooling.

The strong emerging themes of basic drivers of street children influx could be attributed but not limited to poverty, dysfunctional family relationship, polygamy and divorce, culture and values, rural-urban migration, rapid urbanization growth, breakdown of extended family system and HIV/AIDS, global economic enterprise and these are discussed below.

### **Poverty**

Poverty plays a major role in streetism. According to Aptekar (1994), most children are in the streets because of poverty. Mufune (2000) posits that being on the street is public disclosure of destitution. It is a statement to both the public and the individual concerned that one is poor (Mufune, 2000). Reza and Henly (2018) asserted

that many street children end up on the street due to their parent's inability to meet household demands brought on by increasing economic hardship. Many of the street children end up on the streets of cities because their parents do not have money to send them to school or care for their basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. Children who are from low-income families are likely to find themselves on the streets. Most of these children have parents who cannot take proper care of them. Some parents neglect older children to care for younger ones because of financial problems. These children end up in streets where they find solace and struggle to fend for themselves (Reza & Henly, 2018). Kilbride and Kilbride (1993) observed that in cases where mothers are alcoholics, children are often left alone for many hours or are not provided with adequate nutrition. UMP (2000) observed that poor parents are likely to pull their children from school to supplement family income. More often, than not, the girl child becomes the ultimate casualty. The study revealed that girls' economic survival activities on the street are limited to begging and prostitution. Boys are involved in many other income generating activities like guiding motorists or scavenging (UMP, 2000).

Other studies on street girls found that close to 90% of these girls come from households suffering from physical and verbal abuse, and alcoholism. More than half of the girls originated from single parents' households in low-income settlements (Ochalla, 1996). Although it is the basic rights of every child to have shelter, clothing, food, and education (Aptekar, 1994) this is challenging in many developing countries due to inadequate resources, economic mismanagement, societal disparity and political insurgences or sheer lack of concern from the political class. Poverty thus affects many

households in developing countries and leaves families and children to find avenues for survival hence the street becomes a hope for economic emancipation which leads to the rising trend of street children.

### **Dysfunctional Families**

An unhealthy relationship with parents or guardians can lead to streetism.

Cerbolles (2019) argued that some children leave home because of a bad relationship at home with their parents or foster guardian; hence they view the street as their salvation.

Gadd (2016) concurred with this assertion and stated that some street children like street life over life at home because they have poor relations with their parents. Överlien (2017)

asserted that some street children do not feel comfortable living with their parents

because of their parents' attitudes or behavior. For these reasons, some children take to

the street because of some of issues at home. A poor relationship with parents forces the

children to move onto the street to be away from their parents. The street becomes a

haven for them where they hope to find solace and peace of mind (Överlien, 2017).

David et al. (1991) also collaborated with the assertion made by Överlien (2017) that lack

of responsibility on the part of the parents, family conflicts and parental behavioral

problems, for example giving priority to material gains, substance use and gambling,

takes children to the streets. According to research done by ANPPCAN (1995), street

children take to the streets because of poor relations at home, leading to frustrations,

overcrowded homes, hence they consider street as an alternative home. Ebigbo (1986)

observed that some street children prefer street life to family life because of poor

relations in their families.



Wainaina (1981) indicated that some children find their homes both materially and morally troublesome, for example, the parents abuse alcohol and or mothers with as many boyfriends as possible. Thus, some children opt to take to street life because of their dislike of what goes on in their homes. According to research done by Hussein (1998) 82% of street children indicated that they were forced to escape or leave their homes and reside in the streets because of maltreatment, abuse and exploitation they witnessed. Abuse took the form of severe beating and/or insults for trivial mistakes. Hussein (1998) pointed out that in interviews, street children said that neglect led them to have direct daily contact with street life due to the lack of parental supervision, parental conflicts, large family sizes, parent/guardian illness, fathers who favor females to males or the opposite, and neglect due to divorce or separation. Thus, several factors were reported by the children that led them to the street lifestyle.

Parental relationships play a very significant role in the developmental and societal bonding process of the child, it is that which affords the care, love and learning process of the norms and ethics of society before adulthood. The home invariably serves as their stronghold and shelter from the dangers of society and the hardships of life. Hence for such an environment like the home and relationship with the family to become hostile or toxic it drives these children away from home to seek a more welcoming environment and creating their own families on the street.

### **Polygamy and Divorce**

Polygamy is the marital practice extensively practiced in many parts of Africa where a man gets married to more than one wife due to cultural permissiveness where

one is permitted to marry and inherit the estate of a deceased brother, economic reasons like farming, pride and showing the conquering prowess of a man, issues of childlessness from a previous marriage, aggravates the problem of street children (Hassen & Mañus, 2018). Polygamous families are usually large and result in rivalry among wives as to who have the most children. Since, in practice, two families live in the same house, there is envy among the wives and their children.

This leads to bickering between wives and their children, which results in a negative psychological effect on the minds of the children. Most often, these children move onto the street to look for peace but end up bonding with other children as a family on the street (Hassen & Mañus, 2018), Research carried by Moriojose (1999) revealed that majority of children in polygamous families are not educated and work in the farm. Since technically two families stay together, there is jealousy between the two wives and their children due to unhealthy competition for space, attention, and care from the father. This results in quarrel between the wives and children which gives negative impact in the children's mind on the family. In most cases the children leave home to look for peace due to the ill treatment of the stepmother or father and end up in the street and eventually become street children (Bose, 1998). In other instance having a drinking and quarrelling father or mother or both forces children to leave home and run to the streets in search of peaceful life away from their parent's consistent bickering.

Divorce plays a major role in children moving onto the street. Stevenson (2019) asserted that many homes headed by females are an indication of divorce, with the majority of the street children coming from single-parent homes. Stevenson (2019)

argued that most street children come from homes where the mother is the head, because of death or divorce, and because those women generally have an inadequate support network. Divorce and separation result in some households being headed by females and exposes the children to domestic violence from possibly pent-up emotions in addition to sexual exploitation, particularly on the part of females (Stevenson, 2019). Some foster parents have been documented in inflicting unwarranted pain and suffering on children occasionally exploiting them sexually (Stevenson, 2019). In this case, parental capriciousness, abandonment, and apathy set in, as parents do not see the need to cater for their children.

It is the children that suffer most from divorce when they are neglected. The children from divorced marriages are likely to move onto the street to sell to make a living. The children move onto the street to engage in menial jobs to support themselves and their younger siblings. Nzioka (2002) in his study pointed out that most street girls come from single families because of divorce, separation or death of a parent. He noted that most of them are from impoverished social economic backgrounds. According to Onyango (1999) the high number of female heads of household is a testimony of family separation with the majority of the street children originating from these single-parent environments. He further noted that the children on the street come from single-parent families, mainly single mothers with limited support network.

### **Culture and Values**

Culture and values in some societies on the African continent result in street children. The girl child ordeal of female genital mutilation, overburden domestic and

farm work, and sexual abuse has adverse psychological and emotional effects on the girl child, which pushes them to run away from home. They end up finding solace on the street according to Orgad (2019). In other African jurisdictions, certain religious and cultural practices such as early child marriage, polygamy and children serving as ransom for their parents' sins in shrines and collateral for debts serve as a societal drive to move children to the street to avoid this inhuman treatment. Others also are motivated by parents to move to the street to hustle and look for work to make money not only for themselves but also the upkeep of their families. Hence, such children have homes but work from the street and do not attend school; the result is that there is a migration chain of children moving into the cities for economic gain (Orgad, 2019). The role of customs and traditions as a compelling factor to the rising number of street children cannot be overlooked.

Some customs and norms of certain societies inspire families or women to give birth to as many children as possible (Asante, 2015). These cultures contend against family planning, as families are unable to take care of more children. However, because it provides recognition by society and the associated pride that it brings, many children are born without their parents having the resources to look after them. This makes it easier for these children to move out of the home to attempt to make it on their own, and often, end up becoming street children. Bradley (1997) expounded that conflict arises when there is a clash of values of the parents and that of the children. This clash of values comes about when children at certain points rebel against parental control and desire of independence. Hence, the decision to leave home is often a reaction to stressful situations

and conflicts built on gross irrational beliefs. These children perceive the street as an abode of freedom, negating the consequential effects associated with street life.

In the African setting and in some developing world corporal punishment is seen as a traditional and cultural way of child upbringing and discipline. This practice results in physical and emotional abuse which causes children to leave their homes for the streets. According to Russell (1998), about 79.3% of the homeless street children report some history of physical abuse. Extreme physical abuse in the home promotes rebellious attitudes among many adolescents, who may perceive that leaving home is the only opportunity towards emancipation. In many developing nations, traditional practices, often clash with modern global society trends and popular images. Traditional authoritative sanctions and a growing assertion of individual rights and freedoms create conflict for a child because traditional sanctions are seen as punitive measures denying them their rights and freedoms (Russell, 1998).

African culture and tradition also cherish and endorse children born in wedlock, the marriage institution is valued and it is frowned upon to have children born outside of marriage (Asante, 2015). They perceive marriage before one gets pregnant as a blessing from the gods but considers it a taboo (bad omen) if one's dowry (bride price) is not paid before one gets marriage. Interestingly they frown on abortion because they see children as a gift from God. This strong African cultural practice has seen many single parentings leading to the street children phenomenon because of adolescent, unexpected, and unwanted pregnancies. This place a strain on those who are laden with the duty of taking care of the children (Asante, 2015). Single parent households find it difficult to support

the children financially all by themselves; hence the children start to look for work on the street at an early age to fend for themselves or, in other instances, take care of the family (Hassen & Mañus, 2018). This situation consequently leads to street children influx due to the children's quest for survival.

### **Rural-Urban Migration**

Rural-urban migration is another cause of the street child phenomenon. For many of the street children in Africa and other developing regions, lack of resources for decent livelihood has been blamed as the main reason for child mobility from rural areas to urban regions with the hope of attaining some of the perceived resources in the urban centers (Roux et al. 1998). In Ghana, for example, most street children are found in major cities like Kumasi, Accra, and Tamale, with Accra housing more than 50,000 street children (Tetteh, 2018). This is partly because of rural-urban migration so the children move from rural areas to Accra in search of better economic opportunities (Boakye-Boaten, 2006). The children that move from rural areas to Accra usually do not have family members living in these cities so when they arrive, they form alliances with other street children who teach them rudiments of street living (Boakye-Boateng, 2006; Tetteh, 2018). The literature supports the view that Ghana's socio-economic disparities, rural-urban migration, and rapid urbanization growth have likely contributed to street children influx.

### **Rapid Urbanization**

The impact of urbanization in Africa has become a troubling trend because of its effects on sustainable urban management, environmental conservation, socio-cultural,

and economic issues (UNHABITAT, 2012). Theoretically urbanization is intended to advance human development by stimulating the economy through provision of infrastructure, job opportunities, health care, housing, security, transport, education among others, however, recent research shows that Africa's urbanization has compounded its problems of urban poverty, slowed socio-economic development, and worsened urban functionality (UNHABITAT, 2012). Everywhere in the world urbanization has created cities with modernization, economic development, social progress, socio-cultural innovation, tourism, and human development. In Sub-Saharan Africa, including Ghana, the nature of urban development is seriously challenged by inadequate infrastructure and services, poverty, pollution, congestion and overcrowding, and serious housing deficits (Uwe, 2003).

Ghana has seen rapid urban growth since the middle of the twentieth century. According to Ghana Statistical Services (Census Reports: 1960, 1970, 1984, 2000), large urban centers in Ghana like Accra and Kumasi metropolitan areas have witnessed high rates of urbanization growth rates ranging from 9% to 43.8%, with municipal areas like Tema, Ashiaman, Madina, Kasoa and Buduburam townships in the greater Accra region and towns in Kumasi like Ashtown, Kejetia, Pankronu, Bantama, Tech, Abuabo, Koofrom among others growing rapidly (Uwe, 2003). High levels of internal migration have been due to uneven economic and infrastructural development favoring urban centers and due to high fertility and low mobility and morbidity rates in the city are factors in Ghana's urbanization growth (Uwe, 2003). One implication of rapid urbanization growth is the growth of street children influx. This emanates from general

increase in the poverty level of families due to high level of unemployment which forces children to go out to look for their daily bread and to assist their younger ones, through begging or engaging in menial jobs on the street to earn a living (Ocholla,1996).

Aptekar and Stoecklin (2013) argued that family crises are also eminent because of poverty and pressures of city hustle and bustle resulting in dysfunctional parenting styles. This results in breakdown of family bonds leading to physical and emotional abuse of children by their parents, causing children leaving home to the street to find solace and pseudo-family ties (Aptekar & Stoecklin, 2013). Overcrowding (lack of living space, poor house ventilation, high housing deficit), which is a common feature of urbanization, breeds urban slum communities without adequate food, health care facilities, schools and other basic amenities that push children on to the street for begging, petty stealing, drug peddling, prostitution and other activities to feed themselves and their families (Ocholla, 1995; Ocholla 1996). Others also find themselves working under unhealthy and abusive working conditions, molested, and underpaid due to lack of skills and education just to survive (Ocholla 1996).

Local authorities in Africa are mandated to provide essential infrastructure and urban services by creating laws and policies to address public health, traffic control, provision of services like water, housing, education, roads, life-saving emergency services, markets, sewerage, garbage disposal, electricity provision in the improvement of the living conditions of the people including children (Ocholla, 1996). However, in the face of urban population growth and decreasing resources the local authorities are not able to provide these essential services for all city dwellers. The urban poor including



children in slums and ghettos are ignored in this service provision, worsening their situation because they are seen as illegal and unauthorized squatters, causing authorities to evict them, and pull down their makeshift buildings (Ocholla, 1996). These forceful evictions and the destruction of property renders the slum and ghetto families and children homeless, stresses the community support system, accelerates family break down, and aggravates poverty and increases street children influx. Hence, the local authorities' lack of attention to the street children influx makes it worse (Kanji, 1996).

### **Breakdown of Extended Families and HIV/AIDS**

Extended family structure breakdown plays a significant role in the influx of street children in Ghana. Asante (2016) argued that the increasing number of street children has been because of the breakdown of extended family systems. Western cultural influences have, in a way, weakened the comprehensive extended African family system of interdependence for support. The situations where extended family members such as aunts and uncles take care of their nieces and nephews have become a thing of the past in recent times due to Western culture of nuclear families. The comprehensive extended family structure is no more a viable option for family support due to western family orientation necessitating the rising number of children on the street (Asante, 2016). The African extended family system serves as a support for family integration and wellbeing hence the breakdown because of Western culture of nuclear family structures has contributed to street children influx.

Modernization has affected the extended family structure producing new forms of social values and control where the family's role as the primary mode of socialization is

lost. Asante (2016) posited that modernization has affected the family system's role in children's upbringing and support perpetuating family member distress; thus, the streets become the only alternative for survival (Asante, 2016). The family as a self-perpetuating institution has been the most instrumental institution of socialization. It has changed tremendously over the years because of modernization, causing a breakdown of the extended family responsibility of care for children and family members. Families are left to fend for themselves to survive by opting for alternative means, which contravene the societal and cultural expectations as they resort to begging on the streets, stealing, gambling, and prostitution (Kanji, 1996). These practices are standard in urban settings, especially among low-income households characterized by chronic poverty and deprivation indicators (Asante, 2016). The breakdown of the extended family system in Africa and Ghana appears to have contributed considerably to the street children influx.

The inadvertent surge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic's ravaging effects in Africa has also greatly affected the family structure, causing streetism. UNAIDS (1998) reported that Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest HIV/AIDS infection incidence and a significant cause of death among people aged between 15-49 years, with an estimated death rate of 2 million annually in Africa (UNAIDS, 1998). Children who lost their parents through HIV/AIDS face rejection from society, causing them to beg on the street to survive (UNAIDS, 1998). The emotional and psychological strain that these children go through can make them behave aggressively to survive the harsh realities of the street; they can be seen on major streets of urban centers competing for space and hawking to survive (Ochola, 1996). It appears that the effects of HIV/AIDS on families has adversely

affected families' support structure due to stigmatization, causing children to be forced out of their homes onto the street for comfort resulting in child streetism.

### **Global Economy**

The rise in the global economic enterprise has also led to greater street children influx. Bayat (2000) asserted that the rapidity of the increase of the global economic enterprise and its concomitant association with competitive markets had precipitated the need for cheap local labor, thus playing a crucial role in perpetuating the street children phenomenon. Sargent and Scheper-Hughes (1998) also asserted that children, who used to work in their home communities, have, because of current global economic trends, now form a considerable portion of the industrialized labor force. The new global restructuring has created social exclusion pushing many people to the periphery of society. Many, especially children, have been disenfranchised and dislocated within their mandated space for growth and development, forcing them into this "new world order" creating a global street children crisis (Sargent & Scheper-Hughes, 1998). Invariably global restructuring has created structural issues affecting economies in developing countries like Ghana, indirectly leading to streetism in much the same way as population growth.

Other large structural global economy changes have local impacts including loss of jobs, unemployment, high inflationary rate, scarcity of resources, and low-income levels (Aptekar, 1994). UNICEF (1996) identified these structural issues in developing economies as an underlying cause of the street children phenomenon. UNICEF estimated that about eight hundred million people in the developing world have had their incomes

reduced drastically due to the factors above. Notably, the structural adjustment programs implemented in developing countries such as Ghana to replace the market system control in addressing Ghana's economic decline in the 1980s have caused a considerable reduction in the provision of essential social services, including primary health care, education at all levels, environmental and sanitation issues (Benneh, 1998). These factors have contributed to the proportion of people living below the poverty line. These changes at the macro level have negatively impacted the family system and, more significantly, children, contributing to the influx of children on the streets (Aptekar, 1994). Economic structural issues have created the surge for child labor in most developing countries globally, including Ghana, with its attending socio-cultural and political challenges leading to hunger, malnutrition, crime, violence, abuse, overcrowding, homelessness, sanitation, and health issues (Aptekar, 1994). It is interesting to note that many of these children die in the quest to survive as they engage in inhumane and sometimes dangerous working conditions.

The literature suggests that global economic enterprise has created economic disparities globally, resulting in an uneven distribution of wealth, unemployment, low purchasing power, inflation, and a very highly competitive market. Aptekar (1994) asserted that global economic enterprise requires highly skilled labor at the disadvantage of developing countries' masses, causing low-income families to look for alternative means to complement their income. They push their children to work on the street to do menial work under inhuman conditions to support the family (Aptekar, 1994). The global economic enterprise arguably has contributed to the influx of street children in

developing countries such as Ghana. However, it is imperative to better understand the social intervention policies and programs advanced to curb the street children influx.

### **Social Intervention Policies and Programs**

Stakeholders around the world have tried to initiate several social intervention policies to help mitigate or curb the street children influx. Proponents of this social intervention policies have stipulated various social intervention programs to help curb the phenomenon of street children since one intervention is not sufficient to address the street children influx due to its complex nature. Karami et al. (2017) and Lugalla and Kibassa (2003) posited that different social intervention policies and programs have been developed in helping to address the street children influx. They asserted that programs like the social oriented interventions should take care of the pressing needs of the street child, such as food, shelter, clothing, and health concerns. Bullock et al. (2019) and Lalani (2009) also asserted that building of shelters by states through its social works department to should accommodate street children is a type of social intervention policy in addressing the street children influx. Bullock et al. and Lalani asserted that policy intervention fundamentally is designed to take care of street children. The street children brought to these homes most often than not come from different backgrounds, and these homes usually start as small units and expand to provide school facilities to help train the street children in craft work and also to help them learn to read and write (Bullock et al., 2019; Lalani, 2009). This intervention invariable helps to empower the street child to be self-reliant and economically viable thereby moves away from the street and gets integrated into society to contribute to society and take care of their immediate needs.

CFWP also operates another intervention program that tries to take the street children permanently from the street and make every effort to integrate the street children into socially-accepted residences and with families. Street children that can get off drugs are integrated into society by sending them back to school or are given some form of vocational training to support themselves (Karami et al., 2017; Lugalla & Kibassa, 2003). CFWP is aligned with the Home-based Care program that looks for vulnerable children through schools and outreach programs in slum areas. The purpose of this program is to assist and support children within the home and to avert the departure of children who want to leave home.

Small grants are given to cater for the children's school fees and uniforms to entice them to stay off the street (Bullock et al., 2019; Lalani, 2009). Karami et al. (2017) and Lugalla and Kibassa (2003) further noted that the education and vocational training intervention model helps to empower street children by offering them the opportunity to go to school as their primary goal. For street children that have passed school age, they are given vocational training or are trained in a particular skill set that they can rely on in the future to support themselves financially. Most often, the training helps the street children develop skills in carpentry, plumbing, and fabrication that enable them to start their income-generating activities (Karami et al., 2017; Lugalla & Kibassa, 2003). Bullock et al. (2019) and Lalani (2009) juxtaposed the educational training model with the rescue and rehabilitation program, which offers hope for street children. The Rescue Centre is a society-based organization providing awareness and liberation services to children.

Children in rescue and rehabilitation care often stay on the program for a period averaging about three months based on an informal school curriculum where the rescue facility serves to identify placement for the street children. Children in rescue and rehabilitation care reported that street children are consistently seeking avenues for their freedom; hence the Child-sensitive Spaces intervention program. Although it has some limitations and laden with many challenges, it serves a greater purpose in the street children's intervention program. It is the kind of program that puts all street children in one place with no rules or laws imposed on them, and this gives them some freedom. Children can be fed and have a place to bathe and rest (Bullock et al., 2019; Lalani, 2009). Their self-worth is improved and they become family oriented because they are allowed to have the freedom to integrate with their peers in a family setting (Lalani, 2009).

Conversely, Karami et al. (2017) and Lugalla and Kibassa (2003) recommended the Family Reunification program. This program attempts to reunite the street children with their families. This is done for street children who do not have their families also living on the street. However, this intervention is very difficult to attain because most, often than not, the children do not want to go back home, especially when the conditions that pushed them unto the street persist. Also, families that find it difficult to support themselves are not willing to take the children back since they cannot provide for their basic needs. Civil society organizations have also championed the cause for Advocacy and Campaign for Children's Rights as ways of addressing street children's vulnerability

and pushing for government intervention of giving them a dignified life and taking them off the street.

Despite the motivation behind these social intervention policies, they are lampooned that they tend to scratch the surface and do not tackle the root cause of the issue of street children (Lugalla & Kibassa, 2003). Interventions provided by NGOs, however, tend to fill the lacuna left by the government or other actors who are reluctant to intervene. Some governments across the world at times compulsorily take street children hostage in detention centers and treat these street children as if they were criminals' while some remand the street children to prisons (Human Rights Watch, 1997; Ruvero & Bourdillon 2003).

Efforts by states to institutionalize street children have not been effective. Street children themselves develop different opinions over time of what childhood means and are influenced by their exposure and experiences, and therefore are not easily convinced to go back to the expected childhood roles such as schooling (Ruvero & Bourdillon, 2003). This invariably poses a challenge to the various interventions put in place by state institutions, NGOs, and religious organizations responsible for street children to help empower the street children through education, craftsmanship and social integration, which will help to curb street children influx.

Aptekar (1994) and Frediani et al. (2019) also recommended two methods for developing interventions for street children: the macro method and the micro method. Macro-level interventions are most often program designed on a bigger scale to alter the behavior of the community towards street children. In contrast, micro-level interventions



are usually smaller in comparison to macro-level programs and aim to deal with the diagnosis and management of children on a personal level. Macro interventions presume that street children will be better off when they are given employment rather than being treated as children. Interventions designed for street children should presume that street children can and must be seen as part of the labor market.

Macro-level intervention offers street children the chance to become members of the labor market as it offers the street children the opportunity to become adults since already, they are taking care of themselves on the street as they fend for themselves. Macro-level interventions should therefore try to change behavior toward street children, which are founded on emotional reactions, with more assessed, thoughtful, and empathetic behaviors (Aptekar, 1994; Frediani et al., 2019).

Critical to micro-level interventions is the understanding that there are individual differences concerning the need for individuals (Aptekar, 1994; Frediani et al., 2019). A major goal of micro-level interventions is to facilitate the individual development and empowerment of street children. The importance of an effective micro-level intervention is that it considers each street child as a unique person. The micro perspective begins by conducting a careful evaluation of each child. The street children are given specific interventions as defined by their needs. Different interventions are therefore designed to solve the desires and problems of children with analogous needs. For example, an intervention initiative can be extremely well-thought-out, linking step-by-step processes and concluding in artisan training, or it can be less organized, making room for innovative skills; it can be particularly meant to build self-reliance; or it can offer

medication in addition to supportive treatment (Aptekar1994; Frediani et al., 2019).

Underpinning these and other methods are dissimilar and, from time to time, over-lapping presumptions and philosophies.

Lusk (1989) recommended that current interventions for street children be seen as a continuum. At one farthest end of the continuum are interventions that presume that the street children phenomenon mirrors the challenges in community structures. At the extreme opposite end are interventions that infer those individual shortfalls and pathologies are the major underpinning variables.

### **Stakeholders' Implementation Role**

In Ghana, social intervention policy is addressed by three main sources: the government, NGOs, and faith-based organizations. These stakeholders make significant contributions to the life of street children (health, education, economic wellbeing, security) only when the street children are aware of these policies. Fiasorgbor and Fiasorgbor (2015) asserted the importance of creating awareness of the kind of social intervention policies accessible to street children. The role of the government in addressing the plights of street children in Ghana cannot be overemphasized. The government must implement policies and programs that impact the lives of street children positively. It is the responsibility of the state to enhance the welfare of street children and also integrate them fully into the development agenda through the initiation of social development programs, empowerment programs, and support. This falls in line with the constitution of Ghana, specifically Article 28 and the Children's Act, which charges the state to promote the rights of children.

NGOs also play a significant role in reducing street children's influx (UNICEF, 1986). NGOs work to minimize the susceptibility of street children to social phenomena such as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, and child labor (De Benitez, 2011). Other assistance street children get from NGOs includes financial support for street children education, development of the entrepreneurial acumen of street children, and developing their talents. NGOs do not only implement reactive measures for street children but also engage in preventative measures. For example, NGOs provide poor parents with financial support for petty trading for them to be able to provide for their families, and this goes a long way to curb street children influx (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015).

One other actor that plays a significant role in easing and curbing the burden of street children influx is religious organizations. Hamenoo and Sottie (2015) reported that religious bodies bring transformation by impacting the lives of people through several social interventions. Both Christians and Muslims are admonished to give alms to the poor; and many groups provide financial, educational, vocational and career development assistance to street children to get them off the street (Hamenoo & Sottie, 2015). Mosques and some churches also offer counseling and guidance session on spiritual, social, economic, and cultural issues for street children development. The goal of the guidance and counseling session is to develop personal relationships with street children and provide guidance and rehabilitation to their state of mind, in addition to transforming many who are sex workers and drug dealers (Frimpong-Manso, 2014). Likewise, Islam also recommends some approach in helping reduce the plight of street children specifically the expectation of sadaqat (alms, voluntary) and zakat (legal alms,

obligatory), which are part of the pillars of Islam. Weiss (2007) posited that the Quran admonishes Muslims to give a specified part of their excess income to a common fund to be shared with the poor in society so that wealth is not concentrated in the hands of only a few people.

Mizen and Ofosu-Kusi (2010) explained that the government, NGOs, and religious bodies perform a complementary role in helping reduce the plight of street children. According to Mizen and Ofosu-Kusi (2010), for the social intervention policies by the government, NGOs, and religious bodies to achieve a significant impact in the lives of the street children, there must be synergy in the relationship between the state, on the one hand, the NGOs and religious bodies on the other hand. Complementarity is the conventional way to accommodate dealings between the government, NGOs, and religious bodies to ensure effective policy implementation to curb street children influx (Mizen & Ofosu-Kusi 2010). Bringing together all these inputs or policies (government, NGOs, religious bodies) results in a more significant outcome (health, education, economic well-being, security) than any of the bodies individually (government, NGOs, religious bodies) on their own could offer (Mizen & Ofosu-Kusi, 2010). These complimentary roles of NGOs, religious bodies and governments are expected to help curb the influx of street children through the various social interventions.

### **Stakeholder Challenges in Implementation**

Curbing the street children influx requires effective programs, however this is a challenge because of a weak shared understanding of the phenomenon of street children and families of origin by stakeholders. Aptekar (1998) explained that to formulate

successful intervention strategies aimed at curbing street children influx in any given society requires the background, characteristics, causes, and extent of the problem and the needs of children and knowledge about them on the streets. It is also essential to know the community's dynamics where the problem exists (Aptekar, 1998).

In other words, the framework followed when intervening street children's issues are different from the one used when dealing with other categories of vulnerable children (Aptekar, 1998). Clement and Karbanow (2004) stated that the framework of understanding the philosophy underpinning service provision for street children aims at the rehabilitation, disciplinary and institutional approaches. However, the disciplinary process views street children as a matter that is supposed to be handled by juvenile justice organizations (Clement & Karbanow, 2004). Under this approach, interventions mean temporarily removing children from the streets; however, this strategy does not deal with the problem that led them to the streets (Ansell, 2005). The government and NGOs need to build collaboration and coordination during intervention for street children's problems. In many contexts, there is a lack of cooperation, coordination, quality monitoring, and evaluation of the services provided to street children. Some of the street children themselves point out that lack of explicit evidence-based models and quality standard services, lack of collaboration and coordination between and among government agencies and civil society organizations; competition of funds from the government and the donors make them work on low quality (De Benitez, 2011). It is imperative to state that curbing street children influx can only be successfully achieved when there is effective

coordination, collaboration, monitoring and evaluation of the programs put in place by the stakeholders, however this is a challenge.

General public attitude towards street children is also a challenge affecting the implementation of social intervention programs in curbing street children influx. Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999) posited that in developing countries despite the right interventions and extensive efforts accompanying numerous programs for helping to curb street children influx, the general public's attitude toward them remains negative (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). The community failure in organizing itself to help solve the child streetism issues through community support structures makes intervention difficult (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). There is little awareness amongst the government, public, and civil society who are community stakeholders that marginalized children have an economical cost now and that addressing the issue has an economic benefit for the future (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). There are few safety nets for at-risk children. Those who do exist respond primarily to street children's basic physical needs without addressing their psychosocial needs, breaking cycles of conflict, or equipping them for independent living. Few childcare workers have experience in the principles and practice of positive child development. They are so ill-equipped to support children in their care effectively (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). Furthermore, services for marginalized children need to be taken back to families and communities because there is no community pressure to force the government actions or NGOs to find a lasting solution to the problem of street children (UNICEF, 2002). These lapses in the holistic approach in tackling street children

influx has become a challenge confronting stakeholder's effort in addressing street children influx.

Professional deficiency in street children welfare management is another challenge inhibiting the effective implementation of the social intervention programs in tackling street children influx by stakeholders. UNICEF (2002) reported that individual organizations working with street children have difficulties responding appropriately to street children of different ages and the wide range of different situations in which children find themselves on the streets (UNICEF, 2002). De Benitez (2011) asserted that coordination between organizations working with street children in curbing the influx is a challenge although it helps expand the scope of services that organizations can offer to different groups of children and facilitate their safe return to families (De Benitez, 2011).

CSC Annual Report (2009) explained that street children's most striking responses are that reunification with the family is the lowest priority for most of them because most street children are between 15-19 years old. Many of these children are in the process of transition to adulthood, and in many traditional societies they would be considered as adults. Rather than returning to the family, community, or possibly another dependent environment, they indicated that they wish to be independent (CSC, Annual Report, 2009). These responses of the street children from the CSC report although most NGOs have been able to reunite a more significant number of children with their families, represents problem areas; in most cases, children refuse to return to their families affecting the curbing of street children influx. UNICEF (2002) further explained that the family situation appears very difficult to manage. Returning children to their

families is a very costly process. It entails several steps, including visiting the family first, understanding the problem of the child, trying to look for ways to reconcile them both, sending the child to the family, and making regular visits to the child and the family to make sure that he/she has settled down (UNICEF, 2002). The street children family reintegration is a cumbersome one that requires professional approach which most social workers are deficient making the control of streetism a challenge.

Diversion of funds and goods designed for street children's upkeep and rehabilitation is also a challenge. According to Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999), donor supports intended for street children are sometimes not used for the intended purpose or objective (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). This practice of diversion of funds and goods designed for street children's upkeep and rehabilitation by some social workers has significantly affected the trust donor agencies reposed in the social welfare structure affecting the effective implementation of any social intervention policy in curbing street children influx (Lugalla & Mbwambo, 1999). Challenges in the implementation of social intervention policies and programs has adversely affected stakeholders' efforts in curbing the street children influx.

### **Summary**

The literature review provided related literature on the current topic. The theoretical framework guiding this study was the policy feedback theory. Policy feedback theory is best suited for the feedback of stakeholders' perspective on social intervention policy in curbing street children influx in Ghana. Furthermore, policy feedback theory served as the lens through which the CFWP as a social intervention policy viability was



assessed through stakeholder's perspective. Also, the Policy feedback theory better helped to evaluate from stakeholder's perspectives the effective utilization of allocated resources to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in curbing street children influx in Ghana.

The causes of the influx of street children are diverse. However, the common factors identified in the literature are; poverty, unhealthy family relationship with parents or guardians, divorce, polygamous marriage, culture, and values, rural-urban migration, urbanization, single parenting, family or parental conflict, inter-tribal wars, and physical abuse. Additionally, extended family structure breakdown also plays a significant role in the influx of street children in the cities. HIV/AIDS pandemic are other causes of street children influx. The rise in the number of street children comes with its peculiar problems to the street children. The issues identified include sexual abuse, sickness, police violence, malnutrition, petty stealing, gambling, prostitution, drug peddling, and substance abuse. These problems take a toll on the street children, and they become vulnerable to the exploitation of society and the public at large.

The problems that street children face call for support from stakeholders, particularly the government NGOs and religious organizations. The review found that the government, religious bodies, and NGOs provided two primary intervention forms (prevention and rehabilitation). Prevention measures included the development of social services for families with children, early diagnosis of social problems in the family, support such families in finding lawful, permanent, sufficiently well-paid jobs, a more significant role for schools in the early diagnosis of children's social problems,

improvement of opportunities for spending free time and the development of children-friendly urban and rural environment. The rehabilitation role provides avenues for skills acquisition and development training, family and societal integration, drug addicts treatment and therapy, foster homes, peer mentoring, guidance, and counseling. A conspicuous trend in the literature is that many of the studies on street children have focused on stakeholders' rehabilitation role and sparsely on the preventive role of the stakeholders. The role of policy to prevent the influx of street children is lacking in the literature. This study investigates stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policy in curbing street children influx in Ghana because of this literature gap.

### Chapter 3: Research Method

The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies and programs to curb street children influx, and how the implementation of the CFWP by the MOGCSP has met the needs of the children. There was a need to address this phenomenon in Ghana from the perspective of the government, NGOs, and religious organizations. These were the major stakeholders in developing and implementing social intervention policies in curbing the influx of street children in the country. My research findings may contribute to social change by helping raise awareness of the problems associated with street children influx and perceived solutions so that the Ghanaian government, NGOs, and religious organizations might develop and implement social intervention policies to curb the influx.

This chapter addresses the methodology I employed in undertaking this research. This chapter also details the philosophical assumptions underpinning the research. The chapter further describes the research design, my role as the researcher, research methodology, the setting and sampling strategy, instrumentation, data collection and analysis plan, and measures for participants' ethical protection. The chapter also covers issues of trustworthiness and ethical procedures.

#### **Research Design and Rationale**

The central research question guiding the study was the following: How do stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Ghana? Given my epistemological stance and the study's purpose, aims, and research question, I chose a generic qualitative design in conducting the study. I chose the generic

qualitative design because it was appropriate to explore and document stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Accra, Ghana. This approach allowed participants to participate in the study by answering the interview questions during semi-structured face-to-face interviews leading to the unveiling of meanings and factual experiences on the phenomenon (see Lim, 2011). Generic qualitative research is conducted to understand how people interpret, construct, or seek to make meaning from their world and experiences; this design is highly inductive leading to the use of open codes, categories, and thematic analysis (Lim, 2011; Merriam, 2002) which I followed. Merriam (2009) asserted that the generic qualitative approach is socially constructivist and theoretically interpretative in that it focuses on how people interpret their experiences, how they construct their world, and what meanings they attribute to their experiences. The epistemologically and theoretical assertion of the generic qualitative approach espoused by Merriam lent credence to my choice of research design in that I chose this design to explore the perspectives of government, NGO, and religious organization participants on social intervention policies and programs for curbing street children influx despite implementing the CFWP in Ghana.

The street children phenomenon is widespread in Accra despite efforts by these stakeholders to control the social problem through social intervention policies. To better understand the viability of the social intervention policy in curbing street children influx, I solicited stakeholder views. By using this design, I gathered in-depth information and insights via inductive, qualitative methods from the respondents' views to obtain a rich

description of the phenomenon under investigation. The design also helped me delve into how the interviewees interpreted, constructed, and made meanings from their world and experiences on the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Accra, Ghana. Furthermore, the design was a better option than the other qualitative designs, such as case study, grounded theory, and ethnography, because the generic qualitative design offered me the flexibility to explore stakeholders' perspectives on the social intervention policies such as the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Accra, Ghana (see: Litchman, 2010)

### **Philosophical Assumptions Underpinning the Research**

This research was conducted using an interpretivist research paradigm. I selected the interpretivist research paradigm because it represented the best set of philosophical foundations for my inquiry and was aligned with the generic qualitative design. The interpretivist research paradigm also informed the methodology that was appropriate for my research purpose. According to Russell et al. (2008), interpretivists hold that people may see the same thing differently and come to varied conclusions due to the various cognitive, experiential, and other lenses they use. People construct understanding based on detail and specificities and shared meaning. This shared meaning appeared to be the case for my participants.

Contrary to the positivists' view of objective quantification of what is researched, interpretive constructionists posit that meaning assigned to a number is socially constructed, not an absolute that objectively exists. Numbers do not speak for themselves but take on what meaning has been put on them by people (Rubin & Rubin, 2005). Interpretive constructionists state that future research should be redefined as soft issues

such as language, arguments, and discourse for which policy is constructed and enacted (Russell et al., 2008). The ontological view of interpretivism is that truth is constructed in different ways based on context, subjects, and interpretations rather than a sole truth to be known by all; hence, the worldview of interpretivism is that reality is multiple based on its social construction by individuals' and societies lived or shared experiences. The influx of street children in the Greater Accra Region and the challenges accompanying this phenomenon are a national issue, although several social intervention policies and programs have been implemented. To obtain a complete and deep understanding of the outcomes, I needed to understand many realities.

Epistemologically, reality may be known imperfectly and probabilistically (Guba & Lincoln, 2005) and subjectively determined in an interactional manner (Bergman et al., 2012). Creswell (2013) suggested that interaction between the researcher and the research is vital in creating knowledge, which must happen naturally. The researcher cannot separate themselves from the research process, and research results are directed by the interpretive part of scientific observation and interactions. As an interpretive researcher seeking the worth of the research findings, I focused on the knowledge of the different stakeholders' perspectives on the influx of street children despite implementing the CFWP. Alharahsheh and Pius (2020) posited that knowledge is produced by delving deep into or conducting a thorough evaluation of a social problem. Understanding the phenomenon of the influx of street children despite the implementation of social intervention policy was best approached from the interpretation of stakeholders' perspectives. The paradigm helped me examine the scope and potential impact of current

social intervention policies in curbing street children influx from stakeholders' perspective in Ghana. I used qualitative methodology for collecting and analyzing the data.

### **Role of the Researcher**

I acted as an observer participant in the data collection process. I interviewed the participants to collect, code, and analyze the data to uncover the impact of social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana. I based my findings on participants' responses because I was not an expert on the phenomenon. Second, I attempted to have minimal influence on the participants, and I did not have any professional or working relationships with any of them.

My interest in the phenomenon was caused by a documentary I watched on the street child's life in Ghana and by cursory observation as a reverend minister of the general activities of the street child on the Ghanaian street (e.g., hawking, begging, and performing menial jobs) at the risk of their lives. I conducted this generic qualitative study to understand the experiences of the street children from stakeholders' perspectives on the effectiveness of the social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana. I sought to develop a real-world understanding of the phenomenon without any preconceptions and biases. Furthermore, using interview checking and the development of interview protocols also helped control my bias as a researcher. I conducted in-depth face-to-face interviews with stakeholders and developed rapport with the participants.

## **Research Methodology**

I aimed to achieve depth rather than breadth in eliciting views on the phenomenon, for which an interpretive-social constructionist worldview founded in qualitative generic approach was recommended (see Creswell, 2014; Henning et al., 2004). I adopted a qualitative approach for data collection and analysis to examine the phenomenon. The research was rooted in the subjective ontological perspective, and its conduct was from an interpretive-social constructionist epistemological paradigm. This paradigm determined the data collection methods and analysis of the research, and it provided information about the human side of an issue that this research aimed to address (see Family Health International, 2011). I used in-depth face-to-face interviews of stakeholders for data collection, allowing stakeholders to articulate their perceptions and experience (feedback) on the continued influx of children on the Greater Accra Region Street despite the implementation of the social intervention policies. I conducted the face-to-face interviews in the offices of the 9 respondents' applying the full COVID-19 protocols of social distancing, nose masking, sanitizing, and so on.

I employed a purposive sampling technique in selecting participants from each of the selected institutions. This sampling technique is the general sampling method for qualitative studies, which provides in-depth or rich information within limited resources (Palinkas et al., 2015). The reason for adopting this sampling techniques was to identify appropriate participants to provide in-depth views and insights to answer the research question.



The research population was made up of experts from the MOGCSP, NGOs, and religious bodies as well as stakeholders responsible for implementing social intervention policies for street children in Ghana. I purposefully selected and interviewed nine individuals who met the predetermined criteria using the purposive snowball approach. The sample size of qualitative studies has been debated with various recommendations on the ideal sample (Creswell, 2014; Mason, 2010; Rubin & Rubin, 2005). Several factors have been suggested to influence a qualitative sample, including the type of research, data collection methods, academic requirements, heterogeneity or homogeneity of the population, special interest groups, scope of the study, multiple samples, availability of resources, and study sites (Creswell, 2014). My sample was nine individuals.

My predetermined criteria for selecting informants for the interviews were based on participants' rich knowledge and experience on the subject under discussion, availability, and willingness to participate in the research. The interviews were conducted in the participants' offices, and participants were scheduled for the interviews based on their availability and time. The interview sessions lasted for 45–60 minutes. Consistent with a generic qualitative approach, I conducted semi structured face-to-face interviews with open-ended questions until data saturation was reached. Fusch and Ness (2015) posited that data saturation is reached when new information is no longer revealed and coding no longer results in new categories or themes. The analysis of the data was done using the interview transcript of the 9 respondents purposefully picked from the various institutions responsible for implementing social intervention policies for street children in Ghana.

## **Instrumentation**

Comprehensive engagements of participants for data collection through interview protocols in a qualitative study gives credibility to the study analysis and outcome (Patton, 2015). The justification for using the interview protocol for the current study was to answer the research question and to obtain detailed information about stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx. The interview protocol was developed to better understand the effectiveness of the social intervention policies such as the CFWP put in place by the government to curb the influx of street children in Accra, Ghana. I elicited stakeholders' understanding of the causes of the street children phenomenon and how effectively the social intervention policies have addressed the street children phenomenon. I achieved this objective through semi-structured face-to-face interviews conducted with the stakeholders to allow more detailed questions to be asked on social intervention policies such as CFWP in curbing street children influx. Interviews were recorded, and their ambiguities were clarified (see Collingridge & Gantt, 2008). This assertion was supported by Carey and Asbury (2012) and Matarazzo and Wiens (2017) that interview protocols are the best approach for collecting qualitative data because they provide insights into the phenomenon through the lenses of those who have experienced it. In the current study, the data collection instrumentation included specific protocols that aligned with the problem and purpose of the study, research question, literature review, and theoretical framework (see Creswell, 2007; Saunders et al., 2009).

The instrument I employed for data collection included open-ended questions (see Appendix B), an audio recording for the recording of interviews from the field, a field note for writing and documentation of field experiences, and salient points from the interviews. A comprehensive engagement of participants for data collection through interview protocols and purposeful sampling was applied, and the data were processed using Atlas.ti software to discover patterns, trends, and themes to answer the research question and achieve content validity (see: Creswell, 2007).

Therefore, using a semi-structured interview guide lend credence to a face-to-face interview with an open-ended question approach in collecting data. According to Ravitch (2016), a semi-structured interview consists of several key questions that help to define the areas to be explored, but also allows the interviewer or interviewee to deviate to pursue an idea or response in more detail. The flexibility of this approach, particularly compared to structured interviews also allow for the discovery or elaboration of information that is important to participants but may not have previously been thought of as pertinent by the researcher. The employment of face-to-face interview according to Ravitch (2015) and Burkholder (2016) helps to elucidate deep and more information on a phenomenon and builds a closer rapport between the interviewer and interviewee and helps clarify and deeply engages in a conversation that brings out rich data as in the case of this research which seeks to explore stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx. Hence, employing semi-structured face-face interviews with open-ended questions for this research affords the opportunity to probe interviewees' responses on the interview questions and the literature review on social

intervention policies such as the CFWP in curbing street children influx (Boateng, 2014; Creswell, 2007; Saunders et al., 2009) and to gather rich information for analysis and explanation of my findings in answering my research question as it provides flexibility and content validity.

### **Procedures for Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection**

The qualitative generic approach intends to gain insight into the phenomenon of the influx of street children in Ghana despite the CFWP intended to curb the influx from stakeholder's perspectives. To adequately address the phenomenon required that the research questions be answered accurately by well-informed participants. According to Klar and Leeper (2019), it is essential to recruit the appropriate participants to answer the research questions adequately. Therefore, the concept of purposeful sampling with a snowball approach was selected for this study with a face-to-face semi-structured interview guide to gain rich insights into participants information (Creswell, 2007). The goal of purposeful sampling is for the researcher to select key informants with the needed expertise and knowledge of the phenomenon under study in a specific location to elicit their views and responses in addressing the phenomenon (Creswell, 2007). Thus, I used inclusion and exclusion criteria in purposefully selecting participants to ensure effective participation. A participants were individuals involved with the implementation of street children's policies and programs; participants had first-hand information on street children policy implementation in the Greater Accra region; participants had interacted with street children and understand their phenomenon; and, participants had previously provided or were providing interventions to address the street children phenomenon.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

The data collection exercise lasted for approximately 3 months. The data collection continued until saturation was reached. I allowed adequate time for the data collection to collect adequate and exhaustive data (Zozus, 2017). I reached out to my interview participants through phone calls and emails to schedule our interview sessions, after I have gotten their informed consent. I interviewed at least one official each from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Non-for-profit organizations, Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, and the management units of various social protection programs. I recorded the conversation with an audio recorder. After I completed the data collection, I transcribed the audio recording and the common themes that emerged from the data collection, which I used to analyze the study.

### **Data Analysis Plan**

The method of analysis chosen for the data collection was thematic analysis (Attride-Stirling, 2001; Braun & Clarke, 2006). Generally, this method is the most widely used qualitative approach to analyzing interviews. I adopted this method to produce an insightful analysis of the objectives of the study. In addition, this approach complemented the research questions by facilitating an investigation of the interview data.

I used Atlas.ti software to organize the qualitative data I collected from the individuals' interviews based on a three-stage procedure: I transcribed the data collected manually from the interviews by listening continuously to the audio recordings of the interviewees and meticulously typed it out manually comparing it with the filed notes I

recorded. After the transcription I re-read each respondents' transcript for grammatical error correction and flow. The transcripts were then sent to respondents for their consent to support trustworthiness. Each transcript was then imported into Atlas.ti that generated a hermeneutic units for analysis for all nine interviews transcripts, I reduced the data into themes through coding and representing the data. Lastly, I used Atlas.ti to organize the subthemes, overridden themes, and general themes for analysis. This approach was recommended by Creswell (2007) and Miles and Huberman (1984).

### **Issues of Trustworthiness**

To fully appreciate the influx of street children from the stakeholder's perspective and to establish credible interview data protocols of the phenomenon, the element of trustworthiness is required as the litmus test to ensure the study's credibility. As suggested by Pilot and Beck (2014), I took all necessary steps to demonstrate transparency and rigor data collection, analysis, and reporting. The accepted outlined criteria I applied to the trustworthiness of this research was credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability (Guba, 1985).

### **Credibility**

To establish the credibility of the study I considered any research bias that I might hold in self-reflection which I used as a tool in building confidence in the reliability of the data collection and analysis. I adopted the strategies of peer-review, persistent observation, and interview checking to validate the data collection (Carlson, 2010). To promote internal validity and ensure credibility of the study, I used triangulation of data sources by providing interview participants with a transcribed copy of the interview data

collected to ensure the accuracy of the interview of stakeholders' perspectives on the social intervention policy in curbing the influx of street children in Ghana.

### **Transferability**

Qualitatively transferability is the degree to which the research findings can be transferred or replicated in other studies or contexts (Cope, 2014). Therefore, in relation to the trustworthiness of this study, the criterion for transferability I employed was to assess the extensive and comprehensive description of the location, context, interview participants, scope and the transparency of the data collected and analyzed (Amankwah, 2016, Noble et al., 2015). Applicable in this study as a researcher in line with transferability I applied the interview protocol guide (see Appendix B) that focus on the research question. Therefore, this transferability represented the vivid picture I painted out of the findings of the study which informs and resonates with readers and can be replicated (Amankwaa, 2016, Creswell, 2007).

### **Dependability**

I ensured dependability of the study using all the handwriting notes and activities I documented from the field in validating with the recorded and transcribed interview known as audit trail of process logs (Amankwaa, 2016) with the support of the field notes and audio recordings to ensure dependability. I used Atlas.ti software to help analyze the qualitative data collected from the experts' interviews based on a three-stage procedure: preparing the data for analysis by transcribing, reducing the data into themes through coding and representing the data (Creswell, 2007, Miles & Huberman, 1984). This

process of dependability would allow other researchers the opportunity to replicate these aspects of my research.

### **Confirmability**

To ensure confirmability, I documented and keep detailed notes of every process I gathered in the field. Consequently, to accentuate the overall element of trustworthiness in this study I followed the ethical procedures required by the IRB and Walden University.

### **Ethical Procedures**

Ethically the study abided by the standard ethical procedures in conducting social science research and Walden University Institutional Review Board (IRB) standards. My IRB research approval number is No 11-23-21-0754769. Participants were contacted for their consent to partake in the interview. Willing and acceptable participants were asked to sign a consent form that informed them of the research aims and possible implications as fully as possible, including the right to participate or not participate in the research. In adhering to this principle, informants were informed about the aim and possible implications of this research and the right not to participate. The research participants were informed of the nature of the study, the risks, their right to participate or decline to participate, and their right to withdraw from the study at any time. The participant's information was handled with confidentiality and sensitivity. The privacy and confidentiality of informants was honored hence a unique code was used for the interviewee in place of their names.



## Summary

This chapter addresses the methodology I employed in undertaking the research, detail philosophical assumptions underpinning the research, the research design, my role as a researcher, research methodology, the setting and sampling strategy, instrumentation, data collection and analysis plan, and measures for participants' ethical protection. It also covered issues of trustworthiness, and the ethical procedures. In view of the study's purpose and specific aims, I chose a phenomenological approach and interpretive research paradigm in conducting the study. The rationale for choosing these two approaches is to best explore and document participants' opinions and experiences related to the influx of street children from the stakeholder perspective through open-ended face-to-face interviews.

The methodology section for this study covered participants' selection logic, instrumentation, recruitment, participation, data collection, and data analysis plan. Semi-structured face-face open-ended interview questions were employed for data collection and analysis. The data collected was transcribed, coded and analyzed using the Atlas.ti software.

## Chapter 4

The purpose of this generic qualitative study was to explore stakeholders' perspectives on social interventions policies and programs in curbing street children influx, and how the implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) by the MOGCSP has met the needs of the children. The goal of this research was to understand from stakeholder perspectives how the CFWP as a social intervention policy has helped in curbing street children influx in Accra, Ghana. The central research question guiding the study was the following: How do stakeholders perceive the effectiveness of the CFWP in curbing street children influx in Ghana? I sought to answer the research question by exploring stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies and programs in curbing street children influx, and how the implementation of the CFWP has met the needs of the children. I used interview questions to collect data to answer the central research question.

This chapter addresses the setting, data collection and analysis, trustworthiness strategies, and demographic characteristics of respondents followed by key stakeholder responses about experiences of street children in Ghana, the effectiveness of the CFWP, and the factors influencing the influx of street children in Ghana. Themes generated from the data analysis are supported with quotes to substantiate the data findings. The chapter closes with a summary of the themes generated from the data analysis.

### **Setting**

The stakeholders were nine program directors, two from nonprofit organizations and seven from the various agencies overseeing the issues of street children and the

implementation of the CFWP. Participants were purposefully recruited from the Greater Accra Region from various agencies involved with street children's issues. All nine respondents were interviewed in their offices at a time of their choosing. The interviews lasted between 45 minutes and 1 hour, and all participants appeared to be enthusiastic about the topic and eager to contribute to the interview process.

### **Demographics**

I interviewed nine stakeholders who met the following eligibility criteria: (a) professional involvement with the formulation and implementation of street children's policies and programs, (b) firsthand experiences with street children policy implementation in the Greater Accra Region, (c) provided or were providing interventions to address the street children phenomenon in Ghana, and (d) involvement with the policy formulation and implementation of the CFWP of the MOGCSP.

### **Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

I collected data from nine stakeholders made up of directors and deputy directors, two women and seven men between 45 and 55 years of age, who had between 10 and 20 years of work experience from relevant institutions dealing with street children in Ghana. The language of communication was English.

### **Data Collection**

The interviews were conducted between the months of January and March 2022. All interviews were audio recorded. I also took field notes to capture salient points or thoughts throughout the interview. All respondents were made aware that their participation was voluntary, and they had the right to withdraw at any time they felt

uncomfortable with the exercise. Participants were also assured of confidentiality. The semi-structured face-to-face interviews began with my attempt to establish rapport with the interviewees for rich flow of information (see Burkholder et al., 2016). Respondents appeared to be open to fully engage in the interview process.

### **Data Analysis**

My Research goal was to understand from the stakeholder perspective how the CFWP as a social intervention policy implemented by the MOGCSP has helped in curbing street children influx in Accra, Ghana. This goal was accomplished by having the recorded interviews transcribed as soon as possible following each one. The recorded audio of respondents was reviewed as many as 10 times to understand the trend of thought of respondents in relation to the interview questions. Afterward I listened to each interviewee audio and typed it out manually, comparing it with the field notes I had taken. After the transcription, I reread each respondent's transcript for grammatical error correction and flow. The transcripts were then sent to respondents for interview checking to establish data credibility and rigor. A sample of respondent transcripts and the recorded audio were also sent to my chair for vetting and approval. Each transcript was imported into Atlas.ti, which generated a hermeneutic unit for analysis. The hermeneutic unit included all nine transcripts of the interviews. These documents were read and reviewed several times to familiarize myself with the interview rhythm and to establish trustworthiness. Quotes were made by highlighting sections of the documents, and ATLAS.ti assigned them an identification.

At the initial stage of the analysis, open or in vivo coding was used because it allowed small pieces of data to be examined in detail and compared to one another (see Silver & Lewins, 2014). In this first level of analysis, any line of data that was potentially important or relevant was coded. I systematically collected segments that were instances of the subject area of interest (see Silver & Lewins, 2014). At this stage a chunk of text was highlighted in ATLAS.ti for use. This was quite helpful in the early stages of coding as the initial level of coding. Proper concept creation was helpful with the second and third stages.

Similar codes were grouped together, combined into higher order categories, and compared and examined in the second step of analysis (see Silver & Lewins, 2014). In this step, Britten et al. (2002) suggested using Schutz's theory of first and second order constructs. "Schutz used the phrase first order construct to refer to ordinary people's everyday explanations, and the word second order construct to refer to social science constructions" (Britten et al., 2002, p. 211).

The second stage of coding was aided by printing out the list of first stage codes. Terms that were commonly used in the evidence base were transformed to more useable terms. During the review, I noticed that several of the topics overlapped, which resulted in some of the codes merging. The codes were merged in ATLAS.ti. All of the possible codes appeared, and the appropriate codes were merged. These codes were then combined into a single code name. All previous comments, as well as associated content, were preserved under the merged code.

During the third stage of analysis, selective coding was applied. The data and codes were examined at this point to identify themes, concepts, and linkages (see Silver & Lewins, 2014). ATLAS.ti enabled third-stage coding by allowing the creation of chains of numerous codes and the linking of quotations to provide evidence.

This process was performed repeatedly in the hopes of uncovering new information and ideas. I was able to observe the broad trends in the data by assigning codes to families. The sorting and filtering applications in the hermeneutic unit editor's menu were used to do this. I was able to discover quotes that supported the emerging themes using the code manager and the identified families. Three broad themes emerged at the end of the process, which were experiences of street children in Ghana, the effectiveness of the CFWP, and the factors influencing the influx of street children in Ghana. Each code had a count of how many quotations were connected to it. Table 4 shows the list of codes, the frequency counted, and the families.

**Table 1***Codes for Theme Analysis*

Code	Frequency count	Family
Children of disabled	6–0	Characteristics of street children
Migrant children	7–0	Characteristics of street children
Children who live on the street	2–0	Categories of street children
Children who live by the street	2–0	Categories of street children
Children who live with the street	2–0	Categories of street children
Lack of data	4–0	Challenge with CFWP
Administrative challenges	5–0	Challenge with CFWP
Financial challenge	9–0	Challenge with CFWP
Ineffectiveness of policy	5–0	Challenge with CFWP
Effective coordination	4–0	CFWP
Logistics	5–0	Challenge with CFWP
Breakdown of family system	4–0	Factors for influx of street children
Economic constraint poverty	6–0	Factors for influx of street children
Physically challenged mothers	7–0	Factors for influx of street children
Illness or death of parents	3–0	Factors for influx of street children
Peer influence	2–0	Factors for influx of street children

NB: Each frequency count or range is the no of times the issue was mentioned per

transcript of an interviewee.

### **Study Results**

This section presents the results of the study in response to the interview questions and the themes generated.

#### **Theme 1: Experiences of Street Children**

This theme answered the first interview question, which was the following: “Briefly describe your experience with the growth of street children in Ghana.” I sought information from respondents regarding their experiences with the growth of street children in Ghana. The themes developed in the data analysis included the years of

experience with the problem, the characteristics of street children, and the categories of street children. In terms of the years of experience dealing with street children in Ghana, I found that the attempt to deal with the issue of street children in Ghana was begun more than 25 years ago. Most of the key informants indicated having had many years of experience dealing with the problem:

- I can boldly say that some 25 years ago, street children in Ghana were mostly children of disabled beggars who lived on the streets and then gradually, more children arrived until recently migrants from other countries come in addition to those that have already been there. (R1)
- So, I started engaging with street children way back in 2002. (R2)
- For street children, it is one of the social menaces that the country has been trying for ages now to handle and there have been several approaches and programs in dealing with the situation. (R5)
- And for my over twenty years' experience we have seen an increase of parents and families being aware of certain rights of the children but still there are many problems leaving the children into the streets. (R2).
- As you are aware, in Ghana, streetism is something that is highly of concern to the nation because increasingly there are more street children and a lot of effort to even combat it is always a futility...and as a social welfare officer, I have noticed that streetism is the pain of our economy and more children are on the streets now and that is why your research work is prudent to help to



bring about issues and methods of how we can help to resolve issues of streetism. (R7)

These comments indicated that the issue of street children in Ghana was not a recent phenomenon and had been a big issue of concern to the nation with some efforts made in dealing with the situation for a long time.

In terms of the characteristics of street children, some respondents highlighted that street children in Ghana are mostly disabled beggars, migrant children, and relatives of the disabled. R1 indicated that

street children in Ghana were mostly children of disabled beggars who lived on the streets and then gradually, more children arrived until recently migrants from other countries come in addition to those that have already been there. Initially, the children you find on the streets were mostly family members who were supporting their disabled family members by pushing the carts or going to beg for them. After some years, more children arrived in the cities and we found them to be mostly those in need because their families did not take care of them or were not able to take care of them well and they clearly took the lead in the number of children that came to the city.

Another participant indicated that street children are made up of internal migrants who come from the northern to the southern part of the country:

Street children in Ghana is related to migration of children coming from some parts of the country especially the northern part to the southern part of Ghana.

Now, if you get on the streets, majority of the children are not from the northern part of Ghana but from the southern part. (R4)

On the same issue, some respondents gave different categories of street children as children living on the streets, off the street, and by the street as well as migrants who come to the streets and go back. R4 indicated that

if we speak of the street children, we are referring to children who have their abode or livelihood on the streets and they are in various categories. Some live on the streets, by the street and with the street. Some also have their place of living on the street or around the street. Some others also migrate and come and hence get back again.

R7 had this to say:

When it comes to streetism, we have three modes of streetism: they are, in the streets, off the streets and on the streets. Off the streets are kids who come to the streets, do their daily hawking and return home. On the streets are children born and bred on the streets and in the streets are children who have become vagabonds, run from their homes and therefore are in the streets.

Other categories mentioned included children of migrant mothers termed as “Kayaye” who came to the south for economic reasons but had no place to live except the streets.

R8 mentioned

there are different categories of street children but my experience particularly is with the head potters popularly known as the “kayaye”. We got involved with the kayeye because when they come, apart from staying in the streets, they are also

being exposed to dangers on the street. Secondly, some of them come with their children or because of the nature of their job when they come, they become pregnant and have children which is not the best in terms of the child protection activist.

### **Theme 2: Effectiveness of the Child and Family Welfare Policy**

The CFWP formulated and implemented by Ministry of Gender Children and Social Protection of Ghana seeks to establish a well-structured and coordinated CFWP system to promote the wellbeing of children, prevent abuse and protect children from harm. The overall goal of the policy is to help formulate child and family welfare programs and activities to more effectively prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The main objectives of the Policy are i] to design child and family welfare programs and activities to more effectively prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation; ii] to ensure effective coordination of the child and family welfare system at all levels; iii] to empower children and families to better understand abusive situations and make choices to prevent and respond to situations of risk; iv] to build the capacity of institutions and service providers to ensure the quality of services for children and families in urban and rural areas; v] to reform existing laws and policies to conform to the CFWP system; and vi] to ensure provision of adequate human, technical and financial resources required for the functioning of the CFWP system at all levels

The study, therefore, sought to ascertain the effectiveness of programs and activities of this policy in line with the six objectives. This answers interview question 2

which is “Has CFWP programs and activities been effective in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation? If so, which programs deserve recognition or have been successful? If not, why do you believe these programs and activities failed to be effective?”

In terms of the effectiveness of the CFWP, programs, and activities in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation, some of the respondents from the institutions indicated that the policy is not effective and they indicated the following:

- And from what we see on the grounds, the little effort may not have been effective in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect and exploitation. (R1)
- Overall, no it hasn't been effective. (R2)
- We have social welfare officers and some other technical people who know something about it but then we as the social welfare, the question to ask is, are we implementing it and how are we going about it and what are the mechanism and processes put in place to redress the issue? So, for me, it is not working. (R3)
- We did an assessment of the child and family welfare policy and I think you would have to have a copy of the report. However, it has not been effective. (R4)
- So, the policy works to some extent where families are organized or even if they are not organized, where children are with some parents or family

members that can demand for some rights for the child. Aside that, it is not applicable to children who are loitering around in the streets and have nobody to care for them. (R5)

- In curbing or rescuing children from the streets, government started with three dimensions. We started with the rescue of the children and then moved to the regulatory measures to regulate the activities of these street children wherever they are and the government also came out with legal and policy frameworks. However, all these over the years are not working. For instance, the children's Act in 1998 is not working and the human trafficking Act is also not effective in curbing this streetism. So, this gave birth to the child and family welfare policy which was meant to restructure the whole social protection space so that we will be able to rescue these children and support them with dimensions and restructure community areas where these children can be accommodated. But the child and family welfare policy which was launched in 2015 is also not working (R6)
- In 2010/2011, we did a mapping exercise with the support of UNICEF and the Ghana government including all the stakeholders in Ghana. Some of the issues that came up from the mapping exercise was that the way we do the child protection in Ghana was not effective. (R8)

Although the policy, programs, and activities under this aim was deemed not to be effective, some sensitization program by other institutions was found to have been carried on towards achieving the same objective. This was indicated by Respondent 1

Aside the NCCE which is involved in sensitization, the Girl-Child education program and Public Health with Adolescent Corners, basically, nothing has been done. If any activity has been conducted, it was by NGOs. (R1)

Reasons for the ineffectiveness of the policy, programs, and activities in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect and exploitation included: unavailability of data, lack of funds, and inadequate resources. This was mentioned by some respondents:

- There is no data available and that is one of the big cracks that the government does not collect valid data. But, from what we see on the ground, numbers are increasing rather than declining and the reasons that we hear been stated by the state officials is the lack of funding and the lack of human resource. (R1).
- So, I think it is not just the family welfare but also the economic situations, the gap between the north and south. (R2)
- When we take only the street children side of it, you realize that the policy outlined measures, efforts and steps to address that but then limited in resources and even in raising the resources because a chunk of it is dependent on the state to raise even though stakeholders are called into being and so, I would say that is the major limitation to the policy much in the area of street children (R9).

Also mentioned were administrative challenges which include: the lack of commitment, challenges in program design and development, data collection and evaluation.

Other reasons that we perceive is the lack of commitment and insight, the failure to strategize for instance collecting data, making assessments, developing programs with clear focus and objectives and doing evaluation (R1) this is because there is a gap between the policy and the practice and also the family and the community. Besides, some of the actionable plans that are attached to the child and family welfare policy as far as the ministry is concerned have not been implemented. (R6).

Again, in ascertaining the effectiveness of the CFWP programs and activities with regards to its effectiveness in coordination between government and NGOs on CFWP systems leads us to interview question 3 which was “Are government and NGO or NPO’s partners effectively coordinating CFW system at all levels? If so, who or what has made this happen? If not, what do you perceive the solution to be? What needs to be done to improve overall coordination?”

I wanted to examine the effectiveness of the policy to ensure the coordination between government and NGOs on the CFWP systems at all levels and to this question, respondents indicated that there is effective coordination between government and NGOs on the CFWP systems. Predominant among the NGOs involved in the coordination is the UNICEF as mentioned by most respondents as having played a pivotal role in the Child and family Welfare System. Others include Action Aid, International Needs, Plan International, Catholic Street action,” Chance for Children,” and World Vision among others:

- Oh yes, it is very complementary because for instance, with the child protection committee, there are some main NGO practitioners on board and they include, reps from agencies involve with Children's rights and protection and vulnerable population. We use to have Action Aid, UNICEF, International Needs, Plan International and among others and they are always around when it comes to meetings. So, in terms of that coordinating role, it has been very successful and that is what we use to also assess what they do and we meet quarterly which is four times in a year. And because they happen to be on the committee, it is more like a check on what they do in terms of all issues since it is not only about child labor but all other issues regarding children. (R4)
- The government and the private sector as well as the NGOs which in recent times we call the Non-Profit Organizations are working and in all the programs I have mentioned, they are partners. UNICEF seems to be the major partner in supporting government dealing with issues of these street children and in the recent street connect, UNICEF is at the center. We also already organized one stakeholder meeting to look at the holistic plan again, reviewing the previous plans and then putting in national action plan again to address the issue. And so, this has been in place and there is "kinder paradise", "Catholic Street action" and chance for children", "world vision", and "action aid" has supported some sections as well. There is also one non-governmental run by Father Campbell on the street soup and that has also



assisted. So, the private sector and NGOs have always been part of the plan but like I said, the work is much bigger and huge than the resources that are mobilized to address them (R5).

- It has been successful and we sometimes partner with these artisans and when the children we pick have interest in the artisan field, we arrange with the artisans and have them put in apprenticeship. And since we sometimes need sponsorship, we consult other NGOs which will be willing to help pick them so that they go through this apprenticeship. Also, we sometimes meet with the hairdressing and tailor's associations and give them those who are interested to learn the trade... Yes, it is effective and I can at least count about four people who have learnt a trade and come out well and are established. We give them the necessary equipment and tools to establish them so as to make them be on their own. (R7)
- Basically, the challenge of the child and family welfare policy to a large extent was even promulgated or helped to put together by NGOs particularly the International NGOs. For instance, UNICEF played a pivotal role in making sure that the policy was developed... So, there is some collaboration as long as the policy is concerned. (R8)

However, others indicated that there is no effective coordination between the government and NGOs although they are aware of the need for coordination. Some institutions were found to work independently. Additionally, some donor partners

concerned owe allegiance to the NGOs and not the state institutions leading to lack of proper coordination. Respondent 1 mentioned this

- There seems to be no overall coordination sadly to say and we all know that we work with plenty of partners which needs to be coordinated but it is lacking. Even within the official departments like the department of social welfare, and the ministry of gender with the department of children, work independently on their own projects without communicating to each other it seems and without defining responsibilities so there is a lot of back and forth. (R1)
- No, there is no proper coordination on it. There are lots of stakeholder forums and engagements, consensus buildings have been built through the ministry, the CSOs and the NGOs, but because of holding on to their turfs, there is no coordination. You also find donor partners sponsoring pockets of these people who are managing this streetism like “Chance for children” among others. So, they hold allegiance to the NGO and not the ministry that is coordinating this particular activity. (R6)

Similarly, the study also sought for the effectiveness of CFWP in empowering children and families to better understand domestic abuse, make choices to prevent street children influx, and respond to situations of risk which leads to interview question 4 “Has the CFWP been effective in empowering children and families to better understand domestic abuse, make choices to prevent street children influx, and respond to situations of risk? If yes, what specific programs are being implemented? If not, what are the

challenges in implementation?” Most of respondents indicated that the program is successful with the implementation of some specific programs such as sensitization and advocacy. However, there is limited resources to carry out more of these programs.

Yes, and this is because, there are few programs under the division of the child and family welfare and we work with the department of community development. One of the major programs has to do with the sensitization on child protection by the use of child protection toolkits which is an instrument designed to help in doing community sensitization, mobilization and even orientation. So, with that child protection toolkit, there are several persons in them and they organize community sensitizations and also carry out social media awareness (R5).

What we do is that we have what we call situation analysis of children and children were part of the drafting process and some of the NGOs which are represented are child-focus NGOs. We also have calendar events like the National Children’s Day, AU day of the African child, international day of the Girl-child, Child Labor Day among others, which are used as an advocacy platform to talk about issues in the policies and laws that relate to children. So, in terms of advocacy, I would say it is very successful. (R4)

Others indicated that the program has not been effective in empowering children and families to better understand domestic abuse, make choices to prevent street children influx of street children. This was measured by the increasing number of street children, low awareness, inadequate funding and other lack of technical know-how.

- Unfortunately, I will say there isn't because children are still increasing and in the aspect of street children, for instance the aspect of reintegration of street children is something that is a very good content and we all agree that a best place for a child to be is the family but it needs a lot of different intervention to the families empowered plus that child really remaining in the family. (R2)
- Of course, it is not working.... the capacity in terms of the technical know-how and then the funding is also not there, hence, there is a serious gap as to the policy being there and how it is to be implemented. (R3)
- If you look at the core objective of the child and family welfare policy, from my understanding, is to promote the welfare of the children, protect from abuse, harm and exploitation and then prevent them from any abuse of such, so it is a fine policy. But as I speak today, the implementation component of the policy is a big challenge. (R6)
- Yes, the lack of awareness definitely and exactly. As often we do ourselves a lot of education and for the families when you ask what they think they have the rights to, they do not know. Most of these families excuse me to say cannot read and write so from where will they hear about it? So, I think there should be more advocacy, training and education about it. (R2)

Additionally, in assessing the effectiveness of the Child and Family Welfare policy in promoting reforms and existing laws and policies to curb street children influx in Ghana, I posed interview question 5 to respondents "Has the CFWP helped in promoting reforms of existing laws and policies to reduce streetism? If yes, which laws,

regulations, or policies have been effective? Can you provide examples? If no, what are the barriers to implementation of laws or regulations?” found most of the respondents indicating that the child and family welfare policy has not been effective in promoting reforms in existing laws and policies due to gaps in the policy to sync with other existing laws, low level of awareness and knowledge of the policy, low level of coordination and the ineffectiveness of the policy implementation to curb streetism.

- After the formulation of the child and family welfare policy, we realized that some of the laws like the Child trafficking Act, Domestic violence Act and even the children’s Act were not speaking to each other and as such had a whole lot of gaps. (R8)
- As I said, it is a no because first of all, the education is not there for people to know that there is a policy that has to be implemented. A policy must come with directives for implementation and there are no directives in that regard. The policy is just there but if to be implemented, there should be directives attached to it for the implementation. I have also not seen any amendment and yet the children’s Act is supposed to link up to the child and family welfare and there are no linkages now for the implementation. (R7)
- As I stated earlier, the child and family welfare policy has not been able to curb the streetism menace since the influx is still ongoing. (R6)
- This is because there is no effective coordination among stakeholders, consensus building on streetism has not been well built, the social protection element that is supposed to support this child and family welfare policy is not

being effective because the inter-sectorial technical committees on social protection looking at streetism is silenced and that makes the child and family welfare policy a big challenge. (R5)

Furthermore, in seeking to understand the effectiveness of the policy in providing adequate human, technical and financial resources, I asked interview question 6: “Has the CFWP provided adequate human, technical, and financial resources required for the effective functioning of the policies and programs at all levels? If yes, where were resources directed? If not, what might have caused the challenge and what could be done to address the situation?”

Generally, I found that financial resources needed for effective functioning of the policies and programs was perceived to be inadequate. It was noted that the funding of the project from donor agencies were halted after the policy was developed and support from the governments was also inadequate. This was mentioned by respondent 7

- During the formulation stage of the policy, there was funding and immediately after the development of the policy in 2015, the funding has ceased coming and the government’s support in the area of child protection is very minimal hence we are still finding most of these children on the streets. (R7)
- So, financing is a big challenge and as we speak, we have not even received our first quarter release, how are we going to manage streetism in Ghana with this? (R7)

Similarly, others mentioned the support from the UNICEF to help curb the menace.

- In the initial stages you find these donors like UNICEF and others coming on board to make sure that they can support certain elements of it but, that was not a sustainable process and that is why the number of children keeps increasing on the streets. Also, the CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) who are supposed to work and put pressure on these donors and government partners are also silent because most do not understand the menace of streetism. (R7)
- Funding to the child protection unit of the department of social welfare, if not for UNICEF that is supporting the care reform program, financial resources is zero. There is no funding coming from the side of government to support the program hence, there is no implementation. (R3)

In terms of human resources, the policy had been effective with respondents indicating that they have adequate staff with the requisite skills to manage the affairs of the children. “Technically, I would say yes because when you come to the department of children and the department of social welfare, we have officers who have the requisite capacity in the management of children and welfare” (R7).

Consequently in finding out the effectiveness of the CFWP and whether it has succeeded in building the capacity of institutions and service providers in ensuring quality services for children and families in urban and rural areas in helping curb the influx of street children lead to asking interview question 7 which is “Has the CFWP succeeded in helping build the capacity of institutions and service providers in ensuring

quality services for children and families in urban and rural areas? If yes, what were the successful implementation strategies? If not, what are the bottlenecks?”

It appears that the capacity of staff of the various ministries and other civil service organizations was built during the policy development process and through other workshops to ensure quality service delivery for children and families to help curb street children influx.

- A lot of capacities were built in the ministries in the areas of social protection and social welfare because all these key stakeholders were involved in the development process of the policy hence, they were able to have the privilege to understand how the policy is supposed to work. (R7)
- We did what we call “Social welfare strengthening” which we trained all the district assemblies, regional and national staff which they are using as a part of capacity building. The CSOs also has everyone trained in that area. Aside that, there are other isolated workshops that are focused specifically on some aspects of child protection like “case management”, “reporting of issues” among others so at least, capacities have been built. Interestingly, almost all NGOs both local and international have all been involved in this capacity building. (R4)

Although the CFWP helped to build the capacity of institutions, there exists the challenge of the retirement of some trained staff affecting the current capacity of institutions concerned. “Some are also going on retirement, then you are losing track of what is going on. So now, even though capacity has been built, most have gone on retirement” (R6).



Significantly, effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation of the CFWP systems and programs implementation to achieve their overall objectives to empower families, the vulnerable including children and households to help curb street children influx in Ghana cannot be overemphasized and this leads to interview question 8 “Has the CFWP systems implementation effectively been monitored and evaluated to achieve their overall objectives? If yes, who are responsible for its monitoring and evaluation and how is it carried out? If not, why is it not being carried out? Who should monitor and evaluate the successes or failures of CFWP?”

Respondents did mention monitoring and evaluation activities being carried out by some institutions. However, the original monitoring plan of the family welfare systems has not being effective. Rather a deployment of their subjective monitoring plan. This is due to inadequate funds to implement the monitoring component of the CFWP. This was mentioned by Respondent 7

When the policy was developed in 2015, there was a monitoring component of the policy that was also developed in 2016, so that, in implementing the actionable activities in the policy, there will be the monitoring of it done by the children department and social welfare and the ministry will have oversight responsibility of that, but there is no funding for that purpose... Currently, under the social welfare system, they have introduced “institutional monitoring” and so, they are going all round the country to monitor some of these institutions that houses streetism children because there is funding from UNICEF and USAID. (R7)

### **Theme 3: Factors Accounting for the Street Children Influx in Ghana**

According to the literature review the increasing street children population can be blamed on the increasing poverty and rural-urban migration. Adonteng-Kissi, (2018) asserted that increasing poverty and rural-urban migration are factors associated with street children influx in Ghana. Children whose parents are poor are very likely to end up as street children (Adonteng-Kissi, 2018). In understanding this assertion of the factors accounted for street children influx led to asking the interview question 9, which was “What in your estimation are the factors that has accounted for the street children influx in Ghana and how have social intervention policies broadly helped to address the influx?”

In response to this research question the respondents responded that factors associated with the influx of street children included poverty, illness or death of one or both parents, peer influence, abuse and exploitation of children from home, rural urban migration. Among these, they asserted that poverty was noted to be the major cause of streetism in Ghana.

- One of the direct causes is poverty and that is the biggest issue we have in the country. Currently, the extreme poverty in Ghana is almost 8.1% and about 42.6% of this figure are children and they constitute the street children...the overall or major cause of streetism is poverty. (R7)
- Even as you can see cursory in the country the challenging condition of living standard, much is related to poverty as the root cause. The inadequacy to be able to fend for oneself or meet your livelihood within a period and with that, people migrate for greener pastures. (R5)

The other causes apart from poverty which include illness or death of one or both parents, peer influence, abuse and exploitation of children from home as mentioned by some respondents:

- Again, because of either illness or death of one or both parents, you find these children on the streets and these are some of the direct causes. (R6)
- Another cause is that some of them go through much abuse and exploitation at home hence, they find the street as the place they can have their freedom and that has also caused some of them to be on the streets. (R7)
- the peer pressure of having to become rich quickly has motivated some of these children to find themselves on the streets. (R7)

Others indicated rural-urban migration as another primary cause of the influx of street children in Ghana. This was highlighted by some stakeholders.

I mentioned in the beginning that all these interventions have a long-term goal of addressing these issues of migration because it has mostly been identified that it has been rural-urban migration that leads more to the upsurge of the street children. And therefore, all the programs are looking at it holistically but not just the causative but then the preventive side of it. (R5)

Notwithstanding the previously stated causes of influx, other causes emerged: illness and the death of parents, and peer influence. Children whose parents are dead or ill could find themselves on the street. Children are influenced by their peers who are on the street begging and are making some form of income to also come and do same. The desire of these children to also make money drives them to the street.

Most of this child who find themselves in Accra return home with some new clothes and false lifestyle which lures their friends to also follow them to come and make money and end up on the streets since they don't have shelter, and this adds to the street children challenge due to peer pressure. (R7)

Another respondent innoted that the death of parents and illness are also contributing factors for streetism and said:

some of the children due to family lack move to the streets to beg or do menial jobs to support their ill parents and some also after the death of their parents lacks family support so move to the street to fend for themselves and find family on the street. (R5)

In conclusion, another issue that emerged from interviews is the survival instinct in street children and their movement. It was reported by respondents that street children sometimes moved in clusters due to perceived economic gain and thickness of the traffic at certain times in the day in the city:

These children don't stay at one place, so you'll see them in the morning at one spot but in the afternoon and the evening they will change locations, due to the traffic flow and what they can get from motorists and pedestrians. (R3)

This was collaborated by R5:

these children are very smart in thinking, so they move purposefully, they are not found at one place at a time, they move based on their survival, so you find it difficult to house them and even sometimes when you take them off the streets it will take you months before you get to their real names and were they from.

Respondents clearly reflected the reality that the influx of street children emanates from many factors. The most challenging issue is the recognition by most stakeholders that the influx is out of control due to insufficient resources, lack of proper collaboration between stakeholders, ineffective evaluation and monitoring of the CFWP, and that this leaves a social services gap they is likely to grow. This ineffective feedback process of government on the policy will be addressed in *Chapter 5*.

### **Summary**

This chapter introduced the three themes emanated from the face-to-face interview of the nine purposefully selected stakeholders which answers the central research question. The data collection process, analysis and how the three themes emerged has also been explained here including establishing trustworthiness. The goal of understanding the experiences and factors that causes street children influx, and the effectiveness of the CFWP as a social intervention policy in helping to curb the influx of street children has been achieved. The following summarizes the answers to the research questions:

On the issues of stakeholder's experiences on street children growth all nine respondents hinted that the street children experience has been there for a long time. However, they all reported their varied experiences due to their encounters with them in discharging their duties in taking care of them. One phenomenon that stood out was that these street children move to the street due to economic reasons and they do everything to survive including doing menial jobs, hawking, cleaning cars windscreen, begging, drug peddling and prostitution.

The effectiveness of the CFWP programs and activities in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation raised two opinions, a section of the respondents responded in the affirmative and even applauded government and donor agencies like UNICEF for their positive role in ensuring effective stakeholder deliberations and support. However, other section believed although there has been an attempt to ensure empowerment much has not be done due to lack of resources.

In ascertaining effective partnership of Government and NGO coordinating the CFW system at all levels have some respondents claiming that government and NGO partnership has been very cordial and effective because they have opportunities to meet periodically to review the CFWP and inputs, however others also claim that the partnership has not been effective even though there has been several attempt towards that, in that government always comes to the discussion table with a preconceived idea or position making collaboration with sharing ideas and reaching consensus a problem, sometimes government implement things before they are brought in to discuss.

On the issue of the CFWP been effective in empowering children and families to better understand domestic abuse, make choices to prevent street children influx, and respond to situations of risk, some of the stakeholders said the CFWP has been effective in that some community engagements on the rights of the child and engagement of families by supporting them with stipends has also been introduced including children and family integration and the concept of foster parents to adopt children to take care of them, which is supported by UNICEF. Some respondents however where of different opinion explaining that this intervention has not been effective because there are

insufficient resources, not well-trained officers to carry out the sensitization exercise and above all some parents and children are illiterate so they cannot understand their rights unless explained to them in their dialects.

In the area of the CFWP helping in promoting reforms of existing laws and policies to reduce streetism received mixed reaction from the respondents, with some respondents having the view that yes, some reforms have taking place in that CFWP has come to strengthen the Children's Act 1998, Act 560 and other related children and the vulnerable rights in the country and as allowed for a broader stakeholder inter sectorial consultation of the child which hither to does not exist. Some have a different view in that they claim that the implementation roadmap to follow to help guide the policy is not clear and also, they feel the Children's Act and CFWP should be fused together, above all there is no sufficient resources to carry out these reforms and also ensure compliance and enforcement of the policy.

The CFWP providing adequate human, technical, and financial resources required for the effective functioning of the policies and programs at all levels had all respondents agreeing to the fact that the CFWP as part of its implementation strategy has capacity building but that has not been successful because of lack of resources, although some attempts have been made and some have been trained, this is not sufficient to translate the laudable vision of the CFWP into reality.

The CWFP success in helping build the capacity of institutions and service providers in ensuring quality services for children and families in urban and rural areas did not receive many of the respondent's support because they alluded to the fact that

resources are insufficient to effectively carry out such trainings, and even if it is carried out it is rushed due to logistical challenges.

The issue of effective monitoring and evaluation of the CWFPP since its inception and the agency responsible for this task got respondents reacting to the fact that there has been some monitoring and evaluation of the policy however not holistic and effective due to institutional turf war as to who has the right to monitor and evaluate, the ministry of children under the ministry of gender children and social protection claims they are to do the monitoring and evaluation, however ministry of local government also claims this right, while ministry of social welfare under ministry of gender, children and social protection also claims this right, so the policy from its implantation since 2015 for more than 7 years now has not been holistically evaluated.

The issue of accountable factors of street children influx in Ghana when asked respondents brought to the fore various factors but prominent among them is poverty, rural-urban migration, migration, and other economic and social factors as well as government full commitments to children needs and socio-economic factors. The respondents asserted that hardship in a country's economy automatically translates to family economic pressure which mostly affects children and pushes them to look out for economic survival.



## Chapter 5

This chapter reiterates the purpose and nature of my research and why it was conducted, the interpretation of findings from the interviews, and how the findings relate to the literature review in *Chapter 2*, including the theoretical approach guiding the study. This chapter also includes the limitations of the study, recommendations, implications, and a conclusion.

The increasing number of children living on the streets of Accra is a growing challenge to the government and policymakers despite the Child and Family Welfare Policy (CFWP) of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MOGCSP) to address this social problem. The number of street children keeps growing much to the dismay of government, policymakers, and city dwellers. The GSS (2018) reported an estimated 90,000 street children in the Greater Accra Region in 2018. Asante (2015) stated that the number of street children in Greater Accra had increased from 35,000 to 90,000 in the last 5 years. The Catholic Action for Street Children (2010), a religious NGO, researched street children in Accra and indicated that there were about 35,000 street children in Accra in 2009. The MOWAC (2012) revealed that 50,000 or more children were living and working on the streets of Ghana. An important focus within the social protection space and policy debates is to better understand the high influx of children living on the streets in some major towns (Kakuru et al., 2019) and the impact of social intervention policies in curbing the phenomenon. The increasing street children population can be blamed on the increasing poverty and rural-urban migration.

Adonteng-Kissi (2018) asserted that increasing poverty and rural-urban migration are factors associated with the street children influx.

Despite Ghana's social intervention policies, studies on the influx of street children have not received needed attention from stakeholders or researchers. In the review of the literature, I concluded that not much had been done to address the continuous increase in the number of street children despite innovative social intervention policies and programs. Many of the studies on street children in Ghana have focused on the exploitation of street children, the vulnerability of street children, and the coping mechanisms of street children (Asante et al., 2016; Awatey, 2014; Ba-ama et al, 2013; Boafo-Arthur, 2015; Sifa, 2015; Tettegah, 2012). My research was a departure from previous studies.

I investigated why the street children phenomenon continues to increase in Ghana from stakeholder perspectives despite the social intervention policies such as the CFWP to curb them. The purpose of my research was to explore stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies and programs in curbing the street children influx, and how the implementation of the CFWP by the MOGCSP has met the needs of the children by looking at these goals through interviews with stakeholders. I sought to understand (a) the major causes of the influx of street children phenomenon; (b) the perceptions of CFWP and systems implementation in helping build the capacity of institutions and service providers to curb street children influx; and (c) the perceived impact of CFWP programs and activities in preventing and protecting children on street from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation.

I adopted a generic qualitative design for data collection and analysis to examine the influx of street children and the effectiveness of the CFWP from the stakeholder perspective by using a purposeful sample of nine stakeholders and engaging them in in-depth face-to-face interviews for data collection. This allowed the stakeholders to articulate their perceptions and experiences regarding the continued influx of street children in the Greater Accra Region despite the implementation of the social intervention policies such as the CFWP. I administered 9 questions in semi-structured face-to-face interviews (see Appendix B). Stakeholders were expected to meet the following selection criteria: professional involvement with the implementation of street children's policies and programs, firsthand experience with street children policy implementation in the Greater Accra region, and provided or were providing interventions to address the phenomenon.

I used ATLAS.ti software to analyze the data. The interviews were transcribed and coded to generate themes. The analysis of the themes in *Chapter 4* revealed that the influx of street children is in ascendance; although the government has initiated social intervention policies such as the CFWP to curb it, it seems to be a mirage due to inadequate resources, lack of effective coordination between stakeholders, low morale of stakeholders, ineffective monitoring and evaluation of the social intervention policies, and inadequate data on street children's demography and their influx. The interpretation of the interview findings shows how the findings confirm, disconfirm, or extend knowledge in the study area. I also took a critical look at the CFWP as a social intervention policy in curbing the influx of street children.

### **Interpretation of the Findings**

From the perspective of informants who deal with street children, the findings revealed that the issue of streetism is not a recent phenomenon and is on the rise in Ghana due to urbanization, perceived economic hardships, and search for better living conditions that is motivated by poverty and lack of governmental will to commit enough resources in social services. These findings were confirmed by all of the participants interviewed and were consistent with the findings in the literature. The literature indicated that there is a rise in street children and its management globally (UNICEF, 2012). Social intervention policies have been implemented to curb streetism due to economic hardship, urbanization, poverty, inadequate resources, inadequate data and research, ineffective monitoring and evaluation of street children related policies, and government lack of commitment to more social services and addressing the street children phenomenon. UNICEF (2012) estimated that there are more than 1 billion children on streets globally, and this number is expected to grow due to increased world population and urbanization.

My respondents noted the increasing trend in the growth of the numbers of street children in Ghana. The result was consistent with studies that addressed the trend. For instance, the Catholic Action for Street Children (2010) found that there were about 35,000 street children in Accra in 2009. The MOWAC (2012) reported that 50,000 or more children were living and working on the streets of Ghana. The DSW (2012) indicated that approximately 61,492 children were living on the streets of the Greater Accra Region as of 2011 under substandard conditions. Asante (2015) also found that the

number of street children in Greater Accra had increased from 35,000 to 90,000 in the last 5 years. The DSW (2015) reported that more than 70,000 children were homeless in the Greater Accra Region as of 2015. The GSS (2018) also estimated the total number of street children in the Greater Accra Region to be over 90,000 in 2018.

The lack of funding to carry out systematic and periodic data collection on the numbers and demographics of street children to help with policy planning, implementation, and mitigation to curb the influx stood out as a concern in the literature. The problems related to funding were corroborated by the stakeholders in the current study. When asked about the current statistics on the state of street children in Ghana, informants addressed the challenge stakeholders are facing. Many admitted that the 2021 housing and population census did a great job by capturing current housing and population of Ghanaians to help in policy planning and effective governance. However, there were no clear data on the street children phenomenon, which would have required the agencies to do further research to ascertain current trends. Apparently, their efforts were hampered by the lack of resources.

The stakeholder interview responses on the challenge of resources to carry out further research on numbers and demographics of street children to help in policy planning highlighted the need for the government to increase its budget allocation to the MOGCSP. Most of the stakeholders also revealed that the phenomenon of street children also includes populations of disabled beggars, migrants, kayayei (head potters), and relatives of the disabled and internal migrants who come from low-income families from the northern to the southern part of the country for economic gain. This finding is

consistent with Adonteng-Kissi (2018) who found that children from low-income families, especially from the northern part of the country, are the most susceptible migrants who, due to poverty, move to urban areas in search of economic gain and end up as street children in Ghana. In terms of the objectives set out in the CFWP by the MOGCSP to address the plight of the vulnerable, especially street children, and to help curb street children influx, most of the stakeholders interviewed stated that the implementation of that objective has not been effective due to logistical and funding challenges.

The government and NGOs need to build collaboration and coordination during intervention for street children's problems. One of the objectives of the CFWP is to ensure effective coordination of the child and family welfare system at all levels. Most of the respondents indicated the existence of coordination between government and nongovernmental institutions. However, others questioned the effectiveness of coordination. This corroborates the findings from De Benitez (2011) who indicated that coordination between organizations working with street children in curbing the influx of street children is a challenge although it helps expand the scope of services that organizations can offer to different groups of children and facilitate their safe return to families.

Children and parents of vulnerable groups, as a matter of their rights, need to have a better understanding of abusive situations and make choices to prevent and respond to situations of risk. Another objective of the CFWP is to empower children and families to understand abusive situations better and make choices to prevent and respond to

situations of risk. Most respondents indicated that the program operates successfully through community engagements, education, and advocacy programs. However, the growth of streetism persists. Ruvero and Bourdillon (2003) mentioned that street children develop different opinions over time of what childhood means and are influenced by their experiences. Therefore, they are not easily convinced to return to the expected childhood roles such as schooling (Ruvero & Bourdillon, 2003). Street children's different opinions could be why community engagement and education have been inadequate because the children are unwilling to be removed from the street.

Institutional and service providers' capacity building to provide quality service for children and families in urban and rural areas under the CFWP to empower them in skill development is a crucial objective for the program's success. Some of the stakeholders reported that the government, through its funding, helped to build the capacity of staff of the various institutions of MOGCSP during the policy development process stage and in workshops to ensure quality service delivery for children and families in building their skills. This building of the skills of the street children confirms Lugalla and Kibassa's (2003) report on street children's skill set development, in which they noted that the education and vocational training intervention models introduced to vulnerable children help to empower street children by offering them the opportunity to go to school as their primary goal. Street children who have passed school age are given vocational training or are trained in a particular skill that they can rely on in the future to support themselves financially.

Reformation of existing laws and policies led to the formulation of the CFWP in consonance with the existing Children's Act of 1998 (as amended in 2016), which sought to reform and consolidate the law relating to children, to provide the rights of the child, to address family integration and adoption, to regulate child labor and apprenticeship, and to address other matters concerning child welfare. Although reformation of existing laws and policies is one of the core objectives of the CFWP in matters relating to children, some stakeholders interviewed indicated that the policy has not been effective in promoting reforms in existing laws and policies due to gaps in the policy to synchronize with existing law.

The provision of adequate human, technical, and financial resources is required for the functioning at all levels of the CFWP. Most of the stakeholders interviewed stated that in terms of human and technical resources, the CFWP had adequate staff with the requisite skills to manage the children's affairs but not enough financial resources to carry it out. This response by the stakeholders looking at Ghana's situation is different from the UNICEF (2002) global report showing a challenge of professional deficiency in street children welfare management inhibiting the effective implementation of the social intervention programs in tackling street children influx. According to UNICEF (2002), individual organizations working with street children have difficulties responding appropriately to street children of different ages and the wide range of situations in which children find themselves on the streets. Current stakeholders' assertion of having the technical and human resource in handling the street children welfare management is subject to various training and capacity-building seminars organized for them by



government and donor agencies such as UNICEF and others. This, however, is not enough to manage the complex situation of the street children welfare; hence, I find UNICEF global findings of professional deficiency in responding appropriately to street children's welfare management in 2002 apt, although the some study stakeholders believed otherwise.

Adequate financial resources aid the effective functioning of policies and programs. I found that many interviewees believed that the financial resources needed by the CFWP programs to function effectively were inadequate. The stakeholders interviewed stated that government and donor agencies such as UNICEF and other international donors are at the forefront in channeling resources to fund the CFWP and other social intervention policies in carrying out their mandate in addressing the needs of the vulnerable; however, some stakeholders still felt that this was inadequate. They further asserted that government inflows are overstretched regarding budget allocation for social intervention policies. This budget inadequacy confirms a study by Lugalla and Mbwambo (1999), who found the challenge of diversion of funds and goods designed for street children's upkeep and rehabilitation. According to Lugalla and Mbwambo, donor supports intended for street children are sometimes not used for the intended purpose due to other social intervention programs' interest of government and organization. The implementation of the CFWP is in two parts. First is the human capacity with requisite skills, and second is financial resources for logistics. Lugalla and Mbwambo revealed financial resource diversion for other services of government at the expense of street children but not inadequate human resource and capacity.

The influx of street children is not accidental but necessitated through certain socio-cultural and economic factors. Most stakeholders cited poverty, illness or death of one or both parents, peer influence, abuse and exploitation of children from home, and rural-urban migration as factors accounting for street children in Ghana. Among these, they noted poverty as the primary cause of street children in Ghana. These push factors or causes of street children influx is in agreement with the findings of Aptekar (1994), who explained that most children are on the streets because of poverty. These causes of street children are further collaborated by Reza and Henly (2018), who asserted that many children end up on the street due to their parent's inability to meet household demands brought on by increasing economic hardship. These children end up in the streets, where they find solace and struggle to fend for themselves (Reza & Henly, 2018).

Child abuse and exploitation are factors that also appear to account for the street children influx. Some stakeholders explained that child abuse and exploitation are some of the significant causes of street children influx. Russell (1998) anticipated these findings by stating that about 79.3% of the reported cases of homeless street children reveal some history of physical abuse. Extreme physical abuse in the home promotes rebellious attitudes among many adolescents, who may perceive leaving home as the only opportunity for emancipation.

Socio-economic factors such as rural-urban migration have been cited as a factor for street children influx. Through the interviews, most stakeholders stated that rural-urban migration is another major cause of the influx of street children in the country. This phenomenon is collaborated by a study conducted by Tetteh (2018) in Ghana, who found

that most street children in significant cities like Kumasi, Accra, and Tamale, with Accra housing more than 50,000 street children are a result of rural-urban migration (Tetteh, 2018). This situation of street children's migration from the rural areas to the city is also confirmed by (Boakye-Boaten, 2006), who asserted that the children move from rural areas to Accra in search of better economic opportunities.

Policy feedback theory was used as the theoretical foundation for my research because it allowed eliciting stakeholders' perspectives and experiences (feedback) on the policies aimed at curbing street children influx. Pierson (1993) identified ways in which policy design can incentivize actors to participate in the policy-making process and shape the political conditions. His work sought to explain the influence of policy through two factors: *resource effects* and *interpretive effects*. According to the first strand of the policy feedback theory, the resource effect, resources are released or allocated to agencies by the aristocrats or governments for its public elites or stakeholders to implement the policy that will benefit a target population and mass public. The CFWP is one policy that is resourced by the government through budget allocation to the MOGCSP to implement to meet the needs of the street children and the vulnerable in general. However, some of the stakeholders interviewed on the resource effect stated that resources allocated for implementing the CFWP have been woefully inadequate due to the government overstretched budget. The resultant effect is that the targeted population, who are the street children's needs, are not adequately met, which has an adverse negative effect on the mass public and government policy.

The second strand of the policy feedback theory looks at the interpretative effect of a policy. It is important to note that through the interview carried out, some of the stakeholders shared that under the CFWP, due to inadequate resources allocation for the implementation of policies and programs in aid of street children (targeted audience), policy elites like stakeholders entrusted with government agenda through their agencies to carry out the implementation of the CFWP feels disincentivized. However, they have the love for the work given their professional training. This situation generally has affected the interpretative effect on the target population, such as the street children and, consequently the public. Hence government feedback on the performance of the CFWP in terms of resource allocation in carrying out the policy has not been encouraging.

Although the policy feedback theory reveals that the bureaucrat as a political actor implements policies to benefit the citizens by resourcing the policy, monitors and evaluating it for feedback which gives room for reforms, in the case of Ghana, effective monitoring and evaluation for the CFWP due to insufficient funding and other related social intervention policies have not been effective. The stakeholders interviewed indicated that one of the key challenges facing the MOGCSP is the dwindling allocation of financial resources over the last few years in handling social intervention policies known as goods and services. The MOGCSP asserted that for 2019, the goods and service allocation to the ministry (excluding Leap and School feeding- a social intervention initiative) was GHS 3,224,224.00 (\$419,162.02). The goods and services budget increased to GHS 4,233,312.00 (\$551,723.32) in 2020, representing a 31.3% increase in the total goods and service budget allocation for the ministry and its 22 units.

In 2021, the goods and service budget allocation saw a 61.3% reduction bringing the allocation to GHS 2,694,420.00 (\$350,557.51). The budget again witnessed an insignificant increase of 0.099%~0.1% in 2022; thus, in value terms, GHS 2,886,000.00 (\$375,231.95). Notably, this amount (2019-2022) is distributed among the thirteen program areas which include CFWP and nine administrative units. Again, this budget allocation excludes Social Protection/LEAP and Ghana School Feeding budgets. In 2021 the government budget allocation for goods and services for the Ghana School Feeding Program was not aligned to the ministry's total budget allocation, showing a drastic drop in the goods and service allocation.

One of the critical departments under the ministry is the Department of Children (DOC). The DOC is a cost center under the ministry and operates under the Child Right Promotion and Development program area. The DOC draws its annual budget funding from the allocation vote of the ministry. Over the years, the average allocation to the department regarding its goods and services vote stood at 10.35%. For the year 2022, the general goods and services to the department stood at 7.4%. Indeed, a general funding gap in the ministry trickles down to the departments and units under the ministry. The goods and service allocations are used for servicing recurrent expenditures and funding critical programs and activities like the child and family welfare and social intervention policies. The allocation excludes payment of salaries and related allowances (committee and board allowances). Again, the goods and services do not include capital expenditures/programs, which is woefully inadequate to serve any meaningful social intervention effectively.

In terms of policy feedback theory, the implication of the inadequate budget constraints is that CFWP is insufficiently resourced to effectively deal with the street children phenomenon. The policy feedback theory interpretative effect suggests that inadequate budget allocations to CFWP through its implementing agency, MOGCSP, hampers policy implementation and program management to reduce street children influx. The insufficient resource allocations adversely impact monitoring and evaluation as well as limit training, workshops, and capacity building of its stakeholders. As a result, as revealed by some of the stakeholders they are not motivated enough to discharge their duties in relation to the street children to take them off the street, this assertion conforms with the policy feedback theory which asserts that if political actors fail to adequately resource a policy and the policy elites, in this case, stakeholders, it affects the outcome of the policy on the target population and mass public, in this case, the street children and the nation as a whole.

Government resource allocation, according to the policy feedback theory, should be adequate to serve the needs of the target population and public. Therefore, the interpretative effect of the CFWP based on government resource budgetary allocation in carrying out its social intervention programs and policies is as follows: first, the policy must be sufficiently resourced by the political actors and government, and effectively implemented to serve the street children population and public. Failure to resource the program has the potential of creating public unrest through drug peddling, substance abuse, petty stealing, and prostitution that some street children engage in.

Secondly, responsible agencies are disincentivized due to insufficient funding, and its resultant feedback is that there is low morale among staff and stakeholders in effectively implementing the policy on the target audience through effective engagement, and this has affected the targeted population and invariably the general public. Thirdly, as confirmed by most of the stakeholders interviewed, due to insufficient funding of the CFWP, the perception is that there is not much capacity building, skills development in the professional delivery of services, and effective professional community engagement. This resource inadequacy in carrying out the CFW policies and programs has affected the expedited service delivery as envisaged by the CFW policy for the targeted population and its impact on the mass public. Also, given resource and logistical constraints, stakeholders' collaboration in the effective management, implementation, review, and coordination of the CFWP has become a challenge, adversely affecting the streetism phenomenon. Additionally, due to insufficient resource allocation for the CFWP program implementation, monitoring and evaluating the policy for further reforms by its stakeholders have been challenging. This resource gap has impacted negatively on the programs and policies outlined by the CFWP for the target population and the public, as revealed by most of the stakeholders interviewed.

This feedback about the CFWP policy in line with the policy feedback theory is a wake-up call for the government, political actors, and donor agencies to do more in resourcing the provision of goods and services to help effectively carry out such laudable social intervention policies like the CFWP to help deal with the street children menace holistically and professionally. In the long term, only scratching the surface will cost us

more societal crisis and insecurity than we envisage as street children numbers keep soaring.

The CFWP assessment through the policy feedback theory reveals these three major things: first the government has not resourced the policy enough, its resource effect is low and secondly the interpretative effect is that the policy is struggling to achieve its objectives and the morale of its implementors are low. Thirdly, the target population, the street children have not benefited enough from this policy to get them off the street and/or to curb street children influx. The resultant feedback is that street children appear to be increasingly vulnerable and exposed to the vices and dangers on the street. Feedback gathered from the stakeholders revealed that the policy is a laudable one but resources from both government and donor agencies are needed to finance it.

According to the stakeholders, the interpretative effect of adequate resource injection into the CFWP would ensure effective assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and the continuous capacity building of stakeholders. Stakeholders' deliberations within the street children space, workshops, seminars, forums, and engagements, could also help in policy reform for comprehensive education of parents and children in the various communities, cities, towns, and villages of children's human rights, the CFWP objectives, and benefits in the various Ghanaian languages and dialects.

Invariably the effect of carrying out the current plans and programs through adequate financial resources by government and donor agencies will result in empowering stakeholders in the effective discharge of their mandate, which will translate into proper and professional care of street children and the vulnerable in society, thereby



helping to curb street children influx and mitigate against societal vices and possible unrest. Enhanced policy feedback, particularly for the CFWP, in my opinion, could go a long way to help address the financial bottlenecks, help build effective collaboration between all stakeholders in the street children space, bridge the gap between the policy, and its implementation. Also, it would help the government to have feedback on how the CFWP is performing through the stakeholders' perspectives to help with some policy reforms.

### **Limitations of the Study**

The limitation of the study first came from the data collected; given the study objectives, I was limited to collecting data from 9 participants; although I was able to reach saturation by the time I got to the 9th person, it would have been ideal if the study data collected would have involved many more agencies and stakeholders in dealing with street children and CFWP across Ghana.

The second limitation is the scope – I was limited to collecting my data only in Accra. However, we have 16 regions in Ghana, and this is due to logistical and time constraints.

The third limitation of the study is that it restricted itself to only stakeholders' perspectives on the CFWP without the involvement of the street children to know how the CFWP has practically impacted them since they have been the beneficiaries.

### **Recommendations**

First, I recommend that further research is carried out on stakeholder perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana, not limited to

Accra but expanded to the whole of Ghana, to help in a comprehensive evaluation of the street children influx issue and the impact of social intervention policies like CFWP in helping to address the phenomenon. Secondly, I recommend that further research be carried out to involve the perspectives of the street children on how the social intervention policies like the CFWP have helped or otherwise empowered them to take them off the street. Thirdly, I recommend that a mixed-methods approach be applied in subsequent research work to have a broader and a comparative view of the topic.

Through the responses of the stakeholders, I deduced few administrative challenges hampering the smooth implementation of the CFWP in curbing street children influx and generally dealing with the issues of child protection in Ghana, hence as part of my study recommendations, I recommend the following: First, I recommend an effective institutional collaboration, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the CFWP by child protection institutions and stakeholders to be presided over by the Ministry of Social Welfare under MOGCSP. Secondly, I recommend enough resource injection by government, donor agencies and charity support from private sector for smooth implementation of the policies and programs of the CFWP to help work effectively towards the SDG goals and African Union Agenda 2026.

Thirdly, I recommend harmonization of all the social intervention policies and programs under child protection such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), School Feeding, Free Senior High, etc., to be captured under the CFWP to ensure effective coordination of the policies and programs, and their implementations. Also, I recommend an approval of a centralized budget funding of all social intervention

policies and programs for prudent and effective utilization of the resources towards a specific targeted objective of the CFWP. Furthermore, I recommend a single budget allocation for all social intervention policies and programs for child protection, and not to be subsumed in various programs and activities of Municipal and District Assemblies.

Additionally, I recommend that all budget allocations for social intervention policies for child protection should be independently handled by the MOGCSP and not by the Institute of Local Government and rural development through its Municipal, Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to ensure equity distribution of the funding for social intervention policies and programs for child protection. Finally, I recommend specific government allocation or donor support for data collection on street children to ensure data credibility and holistic monitoring and evaluation of the CFWP to help with effective planning and intervention.

### **Implications**

The positive social change impact of my research is that both on individual and institutionally level, it gives the stakeholders involved in implementing the CFWP the platform to articulate the challenges confronting the policy and its impact on the street children. I also brought to the foreground stakeholders' assessments and appreciations of the importance of evaluating social intervention policies such as the CFWP for critical reforms to address street children's influx.

The research and interviews appeared to be an eye-opener for most of the stakeholders as a "first of its kind" on a policy-related issue which have allowed them to express their thoughts and feelings. Their ability to express their thoughts and feelings

and the opportunity to contribute to the study as stakeholders appeared to bring some relief to many of them. They encouraged me to get my findings published quickly to help push both government and donor agencies to do more in logistics and resources for the CFWP in addressing street children's influx and general needs. This positive drive and interest shown in the research by the stakeholders is a positive social change that gets the respective organizations represented by these stakeholders to take a second look at the CFWP and their respective roles in its implementation to help the vulnerable in society, like street children.

My research should be relevant to current societal issues in addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1) No Poverty, 2) Zero Hunger, 3) Good Health and Well Being, 4) Quality Education, and 11) Sustainable Cities and Communities as a country. One of the critical things the study highlighted and collaborated by the interviews of stakeholders as one of the significant causes of street children influx in Ghana is poverty. CFWP has anchored in Ghana's national development planning arrangements as well as a range of sectoral policies and programs, including the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty (LEAP), Ghana School Feeding Program, the National Health Insurance Scheme, and very recently, the Free Senior High School program all in an effort by the government to address the SDG goals and "not to leave anyone behind."

Therefore, the findings of the study hopefully will play a very pivotal role in the nation's quest to realize these sustainable development goals as set out by the United Nations by critically assessing the viability and relevance of the CFWP from

stakeholders' perspective on street children since they are in the class of vulnerable population with children, the disabled, and other marginalized groups and must be cushioned against impoverishment, enabled them to realize their fundamental rights and have access to essential healthcare services and education.

The findings of my research will further benefit in strengthening institutions, policy drafters, academia, researchers, and other stakeholders dealing with street children on effective strategies to adopt to improve the implementation of the CFWP aims to protect and safeguard the rights and welfare of street children in the attainment of the SDG goals to reduce the number of street children in the cities and urban areas which invariably will help bring about social change due to the collaboration between academia, researchers, stakeholders and institutions in achieving the mandate of the CFWP in addressing street children influx.

In terms of practice, the study's findings could serve as the reference source for evaluating social intervention policies by policymakers in Ghana. Thus, the findings of the study may help policymakers to adjust to the current or develop a new policy framework for children who live and make a living on the street. In contrast, efforts are made to curb the growing population of street children. These efforts could make a massive difference in providing a better understanding of the social welfare issue such as child trafficking, abduction, child marriage, or exploitation of children, and ensuring effective implementation of the social intervention policies.

Again, the findings of the study will be of tremendous help to institutions and stakeholders when published: The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection

(MOGCSP), the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MOLGRD), Ghana Health Service (GHS), the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), the District Assemblies, and Development Partners that are currently supporting the attainment SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11 which are relevant to all forms of barriers to the wellbeing of all persons, particularly street children.

Finally, the findings and recommendations will help provide future researchers ideas regarding social intervention policy research. From the stakeholders' standpoint, it is imperative to understand how street children live and cope with economic and social challenges. Getting relevant information on how street children cope and survive under harsh conditions on the streets could be of immense essence to improving child and family welfare services. Hopefully, the research will contribute to the child protection literature, which can be used as secondary data or reviewed by prospective researchers and students for further or other empirical studies on social intervention policies.

### **Conclusion**

“There can be no keener revelation of a society soul's than the way in which it treats its children” Nelson Mandela. This quote invokes the essence and urgency in which the MOGCSP implemented the CFWP policy to help address the issues of the vulnerable in society, including street children, to curb their influx.

Consequently, Mother Theresa stated, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” This quote motivated the study on stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana by looking at the CFWP impact in helping address the issue. However, it might be a small

study demographically because the study is motivated by love. It will help solve the street children influx by getting stakeholders, government, and donor agencies involved in providing the needed logistics, resources, and human resources. It is not so much to do big things for the children but to apply a little love (resources) to help respond to street children influx: to put a smile on their faces and give them hope for the future. The stakeholder's voluntary contribution to the study through their various interviews revealed their commitment to help in whatever way, motivated by love to serve to help save the vulnerable, especially the street children, which confirms Mother Theresa's assertion and the contribution of the stakeholders to positive social change.

Children have the potential to bring incredible change to our world, so we need first to recognize their value and give them our love, care, and attention; this is our God-giving duty; hence the study seeks to awaken stakeholders' consciousness to how social intervention policies like the CFWP if critically applied with love to street children needs, they could be building a feature healthy society.

In conclusion, my research on stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana and the impact of the CFWP was more than just research. It was an opportunity for personal growth and for stakeholders to air their opinions. The result is a policy document that may help in policy reform, research, and strategic planning for government, stakeholders, researchers, academia, donor agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and policy thinktanks on social intervention policies for street children.

Let us make the world a better place for our street children because their lives matter to our societal development and human dignity. Therefore, I called on all well-meaning stakeholders in the street children space to rise up to help in the crusade of curbing street children influx.



## References

- Abdelgalil, S., Gurgel, R. G., Theobald, S., & Cuevas, L. E. (2004). Household and family characteristics of street children in Aracaju, Brazil. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*, 89(9), 817–820. <https://doi.org/10.1136/adc.2003.032078>
- Abebrese, J. B. (2014). *Health insurance and healthcare utilization of rural farm households in the Akuapem South District of Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Ghana, Accra). <http://197.255.68.203/handle/123456789/21973>
- Accra Metropolitan Assembly. (2014). *Census on street children in the Greater Accra region*.
- Aderinto, A. A. (2000). Social correlates and coping measures of street children: A comparative study of street and non-street children in South-Western Nigeria. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 24(9), 1199–1213.
- Adonteng-Kissi, O. (2018). Causes of child labor: Perceptions of rural and urban parents in Ghana. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 91, 55–65.  
DOI:[10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.05.034](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2018.05.034)
- Alharahsheh, H. H., & Pius, A. (2020). A review of key paradigms: Positivism vs interpretivism. *The Global Journal of Human-Social Science*, 2, 39–43. DOI: 10.36348/gajhss.2020.v02i03.001
- Amankwaa, L. (2016). Creating protocols for trustworthiness in qualitative research. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*, 23, 121–127.

- Anarfi J. K. (1997). Vulnerability to sexually transmitted disease: street children in Accra. *Health transition review : the cultural, social, and behavioural determinants of health*, 7 Suppl, 281–306. PMID: 10169651.
- Anarfi, J. K., & Appiah, M. (2009). *The phenomenon of independent child migration in Ghana in the context of a globalized world*. Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research.
- ANPPCAN Regional Office. (1995). *A hearing on Street Children in Kenya, AMREF, Nairobi*. [https://www.ucl.ac.uk › pdf\\_social\\_emancip › HA...](https://www.ucl.ac.uk › pdf_social_emancip › HA...)
- Antwi, S. K., & Hamza, K. (2015). Qualitative and quantitative research paradigms in business research: A philosophical reflection. *European Journal of Business and Management*, 7(3), 217–225. <https://www.researchgate.net › ... › Business Research>
- Aptekar, L. (1994). Street children in the developing world: A review of their condition. *Cross Cultural Research*, 28(3), 195–224.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/106939719402800301>
- Aptekar, L. & Stoecklin, D. (2013). Street children and homeless youth: A cross-cultural perspective. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-7356-1>
- Asante, K. O., Meyer-Weitz, A., & Petersen, I. (2016). Mental health and health risk behaviors of homeless adolescents and youth: A mixed-methods study. *The Child & Youth Care Forum*, 45(3), 433–449. DOI [10.1007/s10566-015-9335-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-015-9335-9)

- Asante, K. O. (2015). *Health and well-being of homeless youth in Ghana* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. [URI](http://hdl.handle.net/10413/12813)  
<http://hdl.handle.net/10413/12813>
- Attride-Stirling, J. (2001). Thematic networks: An analytic tool for qualitative research. *Qualitative Research, 1*(3), 385–405.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/146879410100100307>
- Awatey, S. (2014). Assessing the Effects of Streetism on the Livelihood of Street Children: A Case Study of Kumasi (in Ghana). *Research on humanities and social sciences, 4*, 165-173 [https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu > viewdoc > download](https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download)
- Awumbila, M., Teye, J. K., & Yaro, J. A. (2017). Social networks, migration trajectories, and livelihood strategies of migrant domestic and construction workers in Accra, Ghana. [http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh > bitstream > handle > S...PDF](http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/bitstream/handle/S...PDF)
- Awusabo-Asare, K., Biddlecom, A., Kumi-Kyereme, A., & Patterson, K. (2006). *Adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Ghana: Results from the 2004 National Survey of Adolescents, Occasional Report*. New York: Guttmacher Institute No. 22. [https://www.guttmacher.org > pubs > 2006/06/08](https://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/2006/06/08)
- Ba-ama, E. M., Kumador, D. K., Efua V., & Dzandu J. A. (2013). Challenges faced by street women with children: A case of Accra-Ghana. *International Research Journal of Arts and Social Science, 2*(3), 64–67. [https://www.interestjournals.org > abstract > challenges-f...](https://www.interestjournals.org/abstract/challenges-f...)

- Bartlett, S. (1999). Children's experience of the physical environment in poor urban settlements and the implications for policy, planning and practice. *Environment and Urbanization*.11. 63-73. <https://journals.sagepub.com › pdf › 09562478990110020>
- Bayat, A. (2000). From Dangerous Classes to Quiet Rebels' Politics of the Urban Subaltern in the Global South. *International Sociology*, 15(3), 533-557.  
<http://www.ikhtyar.org › uploads › 2014/06 › Ba...>
- Boafo–Arthur, A. (2015). *Livelihood strategies of street children in Accra* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Ghana). **Livelihood Strategies of Street Children in Accra – UGSpace** <https://ugspace.ug.edu.gh › handle>  
**URI:** <http://197.255.68.203/handle/123456789/21167>
- Boakye-Boaten, A. (2006). *An examination of street children's phenomenon in selected communities in Accra (Ghana)* (Doctoral dissertation), Ohio University.  
[https://etd.ohiolink.edu › rws\\_etd › send\\_file › send](https://etd.ohiolink.edu › rws_etd › send_file › send)
- Boakye-Boaten, A. (2008). Street Children: Experiences from the Streets of Accra. *Research Journal of International Studies*, Issue <http://adamfoghana.com › data › documents › Ex...>
- Boakye-Yiadom, L., & McKay, A. (2006). Migration between Ghana's Rural and Urban Areas: The Impact on Migrants Welfare. Working Paper.  
[https://www.academia.edu › Migration\\_between\\_Ghana\\_s...](https://www.academia.edu › Migration_between_Ghana_s...)

- Boampong, K. O. (2017). *Sustainability of The National Health Insurance Scheme: Views of Health Care Providers in The Cape Coast Metropolis, Ghana*. Cape Coast: University of Cape Coast. DOI: [10.1186/s13690-017-0192-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-017-0192-x)
- Bradley, R. H., Whiteside-Mansell, L., Brisby, J. A., & Caldwell, B. M. (1997). Parents' socioemotional investment in children. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 77-90. <https://doi.org/10.2307/353663>
- Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative research in psychology*, 3, 77-101. <https://www.tandfonline.com/.../Volume 3, Issue 2>. DOI:[10.1191/1478088706qp063oa](https://doi.org/10.1191/1478088706qp063oa)
- Burkholder, G. J., Cox, K. A., & Crawford, L. M. (2016). *The scholar-practitioners guide to research design*. Baltimore, MD: *Laureate Publishing*.  
[https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cel\\_pubs](https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cel_pubs)
- Britten, N., Campbell, R., Pope, C., Donovan, J., Morgan, M., & Pill, R. (2002). Using meta ethnography to synthesise qualitative research: a worked example. *Journal of health services research & policy*, 7(4), 209-215.  
<https://doi.org/10.1258/135581902320432732>
- Catholic Action for Street Children. (2010). *The Ghanaian Street child*. Accra, Ghana: Catholic Action for Street Children. CASC. <https://www.stretchildren.org> › Resources
- Carey, M.A., & Asbury, J.-E. (2012). *Focus Group Research* (1st ed.). Routledge.  
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315428376>

- Cerbolles, C. (2019). *A Narrative Analysis of Selected Street Children Running Away from Institutional Care: a religious based organization* (Master's thesis), University of Ghana. URI:<http://hdl.handle.net/11250/2620549>
- Cope, D.G. (2014). Methods and Meanings: Credibility and Trustworthiness of Qualitative Research. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 41(1):89-91.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/25946242...>
- Collingridge, D. S., & Gantt, E. E. (2008). The Quality of Qualitative Research. *American Journal of Medical Quality*, 23(5), 389–395. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1062860608320646>
- Creswell, J. W. (2007). *Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches* (2nd Ed.). *Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage publications*.  
<https://community.csusm.edu/content/Creswell...>
- Creswell, J. W. (2012). *Educational research: planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research*. Boston.<https://www.scirp.org/reference/ReferencesPapers>
- Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Qualitative Enquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*. London: Sage Publications. [https://www.academia.edu/Second Edition\\_QUALITAT](https://www.academia.edu/SecondEdition_QUALITAT).
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Traditions*. London: Sage Publications.

- Dankwa, E. K. B. (2018). *A Study of the Role of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Tackling the Problem of Street Children in Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation), University of Ghana. <http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/handle>
- Department of Social Welfare (DSW). (2011). Census on street children in the Greater Accra region. Accra, Ghana: DSW, <http://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/department-of-social-developmrnts/>
- Department of Social Welfare (DSW). (2012). Street children in Ghana. A Report from the DSW, Ghana. <http://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/department-of-social-developments/>
- Department of Social Welfare (DSW). (2015). Street children in Ghana. A Report from the DSW, Ghana. <http://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/department-of-social-developments/>
- de Benítez, S. T. (2011). *State of the world's street children*. London: Consortium for Street Children.
- Edmondson, D. L., Kerna, F., & Roggeab, K. S. (2019). The co-evolution of policy mixes and socio-technical systems: Towards a conceptual framework of policy mix feedback in sustainability transitions. *Research Policy*, Volume 48, Issue 10. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii>
- Endris., S. & Sitota, G. (2019). Causes and Consequences of Streetism among Street Children in Harar City, Ethiopia. *International Journal of Education and Literacy Studies*, 7(2), 94-99. ISSN 2202-9478 Vol. [7.https://www.journals.aiac.org.au/IJELS/article/view](https://www.journals.aiac.org.au/IJELS/article/view)

- Errasti-Ibarrondo, B., Jordán, J. A., & Arantzamendi, M. (2018). Conducting phenomenological research: Rationalizing the methods and rigor of the phenomenology of practice. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 74(7), 1723-1734. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jan.13569>
- Family Health International. (2011). *Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide*. North Carolina: FHI360. <https://www.worldcat.org/title/oclc>
- Felsman, J. K. (1984). Abandoned Children: A Reconsideration, *Children Today* 13, pp. 13-18. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pi>
- Felsman, J. K. (1989). Risk and Resiliency in Childhood: The Lives of Street Children, In: T.F. Dugan and R. Coles (eds), *The Child in Our Times: Studies in the Development of Resiliency*, pp.56-80), New York: Brunner/Mazel. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0044118X03257030>
- Frediani, A. A., Clark, D. A., & Biggeri, M. (2019). Human development and the capability approach: the role of empowerment and participation. In *The Capability Approach, Empowerment and Participation*, pp. 3-36, Palgrave Macmillan, London. <https://www.palgrave.com/book>
- Frempong-Ainguah, F., Badasu, D., & Codjoe, S.N.A (2010). *North-south independent child migration in Ghana: The push and pull Factors*. Accra: Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research. <http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/handle>
- Frimpong-Manso, K. (2017). The social support networks of care leavers from a children's village in Ghana: formal and informal supports. *Child & Family Social Work*, 22(1),195-202. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12218>



- Frimpong-Manso, K., & Bugyei, A. G. (2019). The challenges facing children reunified with their families from an orphanage in Ghana. *Children & Society*, 33(4), 363-376. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12314>
- Fiasorgbor, D. A., & Fiasorgbor, E. K. (2015). Street children: our health and coping strategies when we are sick. *Journal of Health, Medicine and Nursing*, 15(1), 45-50. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/234691518>
- Fusch, P. I., & Ness, L. R. (2015). Are we there yet? Data saturation in qualitative research. *Qualitative Report*, 20(9), 1408–1416. Retrieved from from <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/>
- Gephart, R. (1999). Paradigms and Research Methods. *Research Methods Forum* (Vol. 4). [http://www.division.aonline.org/rm/1999\\_RMD\\_Forum\\_Paradigms\\_and\\_Research\\_Methods.htm](http://www.division.aonline.org/rm/1999_RMD_Forum_Paradigms_and_Research_Methods.htm)
- Ghana's Constitution of 1992 with Amendments through 1996. Retrieved from: [www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ghana\\_1996](http://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Ghana_1996)
- Ghana Children's Act, 1998(No.560). [www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex)
- Ghana National Plan of Action to Eliminate Child Labor. [www.melr.gov.gh/the-mpa-1-mpa-2-to-eliminate-child...](http://www.melr.gov.gh/the-mpa-1-mpa-2-to-eliminate-child...)
- Ghana Domestic Violence Act 2007-Africa Legal Aid. [www.africalegalaid.com/domestic\\_violence\\_legislations](http://www.africalegalaid.com/domestic_violence_legislations)
- Ghana Intestate Succession Law, 1985 (PNDCL 111). [extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/gha140393](http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/gha140393)

Ghana Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (ACT 29) SS 81-171. Retrieved from;

[acts.ghanajustice.com/Acts of Parliament](https://acts.ghanajustice.com/Acts%20of%20Parliament)

Ghana National Plan of Action for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

[resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/pdf home.gis.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/C...](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/pdf/home.gis.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/C...)

Ghana Human Trafficking Act, Act, 2005.

[https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/legislation/gha.section\\_1-8](https://sherloc.unodc.org/cld/legislation/gha.section_1-8)

Ghana Statistical Service. (1998). Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, Accra.

<https://www.dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf>

Ghana Statistical Service. (2002). Population and Housing Census – Special Report on Urban Localities, Housing, Accra. <https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view>

Ghana Statistical Service. (2013). 2010 Population and Housing Census Report: Regional Analytical Report, Greater Accra Region. Accra.

[https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/2010\\_P](https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/2010_P)

Ghana Statistical Service. (2018). Provisional 2017 Annual Gross Domestic Product.

[https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh /GDP/GDP2018](https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/GDP/GDP2018)

Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y.S. (1985) *Naturalistic Inquiry*. SAGE, Beverly Hills, CA.

<https://methods.sagepub.com/book>

Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. (1994). Competing paradigms in qualitative research: In

Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y. (Eds.), *Handbook of qualitative research*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

[https://www.academia.edu/Competing\\_Paradigms\\_in](https://www.academia.edu/Competing_Paradigms_in)

- Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. S. (2005). *Competing Paradigms in Qualitative Research*.  
[https://www.academia.edu/Competing\\_Paradigms\\_in](https://www.academia.edu/Competing_Paradigms_in)
- Gyan, A. (2016). *Conditions and Identities of Young Migrant Workers in the City: An Ethnographic Study of 'Street Children's Kumasi, Ghana* (Master's thesis, The University of Bergen). <https://bora.uib.no/bora-xmlui/handle>
- Hall, P. A. (1986). *Governing the Economy: The Politics of State Intervention in Britain and France*. New York: Oxford University Press.  
<https://scholar.harvard.edu/hall/publications/gover...>
- Hashim, I. (2007). Independent child migration and education in Ghana. *Development and Change*, 38: 911-931. doi:10.1111/j.1467-7660.22007.00439.
- Hassan, M., Jaber, T., and Hamdan, Z. (2009). International Conference on Administrative Development: Towards Excellence in Public Sector Performance Adaptive Mobile-Government Framework. International Conference on Administrative Development: Towards Excellence in Public Sector Performance Adaptive. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf>
- Hassen, I. & Mañus, M. R. (2018). Socio-economic conditions of street children: the case of Shashemene Town, Oromia National Regional State, Ethiopia. *International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 10(8), 72-88.  
<https://academicjournals.org/article-full-text-pdf>
- Hecht, T. (1998). *At Home in the Street: Street Children of Northeast Brazil*. New York: Cambridge University Press. <https://lib.ugent.be/catalog/rug01:001192485>

- Henning, E., Van Rensburg, W., & Smit, B. (2004). *Finding your way in qualitative research*: First Edition. Van Schaik.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283356988>
- Issahaku, P. A., & Neysmith, S. (2013). Policy implications of population ageing in West Africa. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 33(3/4), 186–202.  
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Policy-implicat..>
- Jeffrey, A., J. & Johnson, D. A. (2019). A qualitative look into the lives and aspirations of street children in Ho Chi Minh City. *Human Sciences*, 11(1), 211.  
<http://www.assumptionjournal.au.edu/download.pdf>
- Johnson, R.B., & Christensen, L. (2008). *Educational Research: Quantitatively, Qualitative and Mixed Approaches*. Fifth Edition. SAGE Publications Ltd.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/...Education Research>
- Kakuru, R., Rukooko, A. B., & Tusabe, G. (2019). Social protection mechanisms for children living on the streets: Perspectives from Uganda. *Journal of African Studies and Development*, Vol. 11(1), pp. 1-11.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0011325519875269>
- Kamala, E., Lusinde, E., Millinga, J., & Mwaitula, J. (2001). *Children in prostitution in Tanzania: A rapid assessment*, Dar es Salaam. Geneva, ILO.  
<http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/download>
- Kamerman, S.B., & Gatenio, S.G. (2006). Social Protection for Children and their Families: A Global Overview. <http://equityforchildren.org/2011/11>

- Kanji, N. (1996), Review of Urbanization Issues Affecting Children and Women in the Eastern & Southern African Region, UNICEF Eastern & Southern African Region, Nairobi. <https://books.google.com.gh/books>
- Karami, N., Aghajani, T. & Ansarinejad, N. (2017). The Relationship between Social Support and Attitude towards the Police on Street Children. *IAU International Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(4), 9-17. [https://ijss.srbiau.ac.ir/article\\_11591](https://ijss.srbiau.ac.ir/article_11591)
- Klar, S., & Leeper, T. J. (2019). Identities and intersectionality: a case for Purposive sampling in Survey-Experimental research. *Experimental Methods in Survey Research: Techniques that Combine Random Sampling with Random Assignment*, 419-433. <https://arizona.pure.elsevier.com/publications/identit...>
- Kumoji, E. K., Campusano, G., & Ofosu, J. R. (2002). HIV Knowledge and Sexual Risk Behaviors of Street Children in Takoradi, Ghana. *AIDS and Behavior*, 10(2). <https://doi.org/10.2190/IQ.29.2.e>
- Kwankye, S. O., Anarfi, J. K., Tagoe, C. A., & Castaldo, A. (2009). Independent North-South Child Migration in Ghana: The Decision-Making Process Working Paper T-29. Brighton: University of Ghana and Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty, Sussex University. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237379997>

Kwankye, S. O., Anarfi, J. K., Tagoe, C. A., & Castaldo, A. (2007). Coping Strategies of Independent Child Migrants from Northern Ghana to Southern Cities Working Paper T-23. Brighton: University of Ghana and Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalization and Poverty, Sussex University.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/WP-T23.pdf>

Kwarteng, J. T. (2016). Concerns of accounting teachers in implementing Ghana's 2007 education reform: Revisited. *International Online Journal of Education and Teaching (IOJET)*, 3(3). 212-216.

<http://iojet.org/index.php/IOJET/article/view/137/136>

Lalor, K. J. (1999). Street Children: A Comparative Perspective. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 23, No. 8, pp. 759–770. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>doi: 10.1016/s01452134(99)00047-2

Lim, J. H. (2011). Qualitative methods in adult development and learning: Theoretical traditions, current practices, and emerging horizons. In C. Hoare (Ed.), *The Oxford handbook of reciprocal adult development and learning* (2nd ed., pp. 39–60). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Litchman, M. (2010). *Qualitative research in education: A user's guide* (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Lindenberg, M. B. C. (2001). Going Global-Transforming Relief and Development NGOs. Kummerian Press, Inc. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pad.252>

Lucchini, R. (1996). The street and its Image, *Childhood* 3(2), pp. 235-246.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/0907568296003002009>

- Lugalla, J. L. P., & Kibassa, C. G. (2003). *Urban Life and Street Children's Health: Children's Accounts of Urban Hardships and Violence in Tanzania*. Hamburg: Transaction Publishers. <https://ecommons.aku.edu/books>
- Lugalla, L. P., & Mbwambo, J.K. (1999). Street Children and Street Life in Urban Tanzania: The Culture of Surviving and its Implications for Children's Health. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol.23 Issue 2, pp. 329-344. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.00198>
- Lusk, M. W. (1989). Street children's programs in Latin America. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 16, (1), 55-73.  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12823346\\_St...](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12823346_St...)
- Mason, M. (2010, September). Sample Size and Saturation in PhD Studies Using Qualitative Interviews. *FQS FORUM: Qualitative Social Research Sozialforschung*, 11(3), p 19. Retrieved from <http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs100387>.
- Matarazzo, J. D., & Wiens, A. N. (2017). *The interview: Research on its anatomy and structure*. Transaction Publishers. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books>
- McGovern, J. (2017). *Capturing the Lived Experience: Getting Started with Interpretive Phenomenology Research*. SAGE Publications Ltd.  
<https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog>
- Merriam, S. B. (2002). Basic interpretive qualitative research. In S. B. Merriam (Ed.), *Qualitative research in practice* (pp. 37–39). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

- Merriam, S. B. (2009). *Qualitative research: A guide to design and implementation*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Ministry of Gender Child, and Social Protection (MOGCSP). (2015). The street Children situation in Ghana. <https://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/>
- Ministry of Gender Child and Social Protection (MOGCSP). (2015). *Child and Family Welfare Policy*. UNICEF, Accra. <https://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/mdocs-posts/child-and-family-welfare-policy/>
- Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Protection (MOGCSP). (2018). <https://www.mogcsp.gov.gh/>
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD). (1992) Strategic Plan for Greater Accra Metropolitan Area. Vol. 1: Context Report, Draft Final Report, Accra: Department of Town and Country Planning, MoLGRD. <https://www.unicef.org/ghana/media/file/Stra...>
- Ministry of Women and Children Affair (MOWAC). (2012). Fifty thousand (50,000) children live on the streets of Ghana—statistics. Accra, Ghana: Author. Accessed on Nov 18, 2012. <http://digitaljournal.com/article/134172/ixzz1mcXGQbXm>
- Mizen, P., & Ofosu-Kusi, Y. (2010). Asking, giving, receiving: Friendship as a survival strategy among Accra's street children. *Childhood*, 17(4), 441-454. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/254082682>
- Mufune, P. (2000). Street children in Southern Africa. *International Social Science Journal*, 52(2), 233-243. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/229528638>



- Ocholla, L. (1996). "Evictions and Homelessness. The Impact on African Children". In: Development in, Dar es eslaam. <http://www.eurpub.com/European Open Urban>
- Oduro, G. Y. (2012) 'Children of the street': sexual citizenship and the unprotected lives of Ghanaian street youth. *Comparative Education*, 48(1):41–56.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/.../> Volume 48, Issue 1
- Opong Asante, K. (2016). Street children and adolescents in Ghana: A qualitative study of trajectory and behavioural experiences of homelessness. *Global Social Welfare*, 3(1), 33-43
- Orgad, S. (2019). Heading home: Motherhood, work, and the failed promise of equality. *Columbia University Press*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/orga18472>
- Orme, J., & Seipel, M. (2007). Survival strategies of street children in Ghana. A qualitative study. *International Social Work*, 50. 489-499.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872807077909>
- Oteng-Ababio, M., Tanle, A., Amoah, S. T., Kusi, L., Kosoe, E. A., & Bagson, E. (2019). 'Informal Exceptionalism?' Labour Migrants' Creative Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Livelihoods in Accra, Ghana. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 54(1), 88-103. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021909618789965>
- Överlien, O. (2017). Young people's resistances to domestic abuse. *Children & Society*, 24(1), 120-140. <https://safelives.org.uk/default/files/resources>

- Palinkas, L. A., Horwitz, S. M., Green, C. A., Wisdom, J. P., Duan, N., & Hoagwood, K. (2015). Purposeful sampling for qualitative data collection and analysis in mixed method implementation research. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health*, 42(5), 533-544. [https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs\\_policy\\_facpubs](https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_policy_facpubs)
- Patton, M. Q. (2015). *Qualitative research & evaluation methods: Integrating theory and practice* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/book232962>
- Peacock, R. (1994). Street Children, *Africa Insight* 24(2), 138-143. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288038498>
- Percy, B. (2014). Reclaiming children's participation as an empowering social process. *Education, Childhood, and Anarchism: Talking Colin Ward*, 209. <https://pure.hud.ac.uk/publications/reclaiming-children..>
- Percy, M. S. (2014). *Not Just a Shelter Kid: How homeless children find solace*. Routledge. <https://www.routledge.com/Percy/book>
- Pierson, P. (1993). When effect becomes cause: Policy feedback and political change. *World Politics*, 45(4), 595–62. <https://www.jstor.org/stable>
- Pino, A., & Confalonieri, A. M. B. (2014). National social protection policies in West Africa: A comparative analysis. *International Social Security Review*, 67(3–4), 127–152. <https://doi.org/10.1111/issr.12051>
- Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2012). *Nursing research: Principles and methods*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins [https://web2.aabu.edu.jo/course\\_file/lec\\_notes.pdf](https://web2.aabu.edu.jo/course_file/lec_notes.pdf)

- Price, J. H., & Judy Murnan (2004). "Research Limitations and the Necessity of Reporting Them." *American Journal of Health Education* 35 (2004): 66-67.  
Retrieved from:<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325761416> ..
- Quarshie (2011): Public's Perceptions of the Phenomenon of Street children: A Qualitative Study of Students and Shopkeepers in Accra, Ghana. Retrieved from:  
[https://www.academia.edu/Publics\\_Perceptions\\_of\\_th...](https://www.academia.edu/Publics_Perceptions_of_th...)
- Reza, M. H., & Henly, J. R. (2018). Health crises, social support, and caregiving practices among street children in Bangladesh. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 88, 229-240. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Health-crises,-s>
- Rizzini., I. & Lusk, M. W. (1995). Children in the Streets: Latin America's Lost Generation *Children and Youth Services Review*, 17(3), pp. 391-400.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii>
- Rubin, H., & Rubin, I. (2005). *Qualitative interviewing: The art of hearing data* (2nd Ed.). London: SAGE publications.  
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/269951842.pdf>
- Rubin, H. J., & Rubin, I. S. (2012). *Qualitative interviewing: The art of hearing data* (3rd ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. <https://doi.org/10.1177/135638909600200412>
- Russell, J., Byrne, E., Greenhalgh, T., & McDonnell, J. (2008). Recognizing Rhetoric in Health Care Policy Analysis. *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*, 13(1), 40-46. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5527514\\_Re](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/5527514_Re)

- Russell, J., Jarrold, C. & Hood, B. (1999). Two intact executive capacities in children with autism: Implications for the core executive dysfunctions in the disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 29(2), 103-112.  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/doi/10.1023/a:1023084425406>.
- Ruvero, R., & Bourdillon, M. (2003). Girls: The Less Visible Street Children of Zimbabwe”. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 13(1), Spring.
- Rwegoshora, H. M. (2016). *A guide to social science research*. Mkuki na Nyota publishers. <https://www.africanbookscollective.com/books/a-gu...>
- Sandelowski, M. (1993). Rigor or rigor mortis: The problem of rigor in qualitative research revisited. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 16(2), 1–8.
- Sandelowski, M. (2000). Whatever happened to qualitative description? *Research in Nursing and Health*, 23, 334–340.
- Sandelowski, M. (2010). What’s in a name? Qualitative description revisited. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 33, 77–84. doi:10.1002/nur.20362
- Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2009). *Research methods for business students (fifth edition Ed.)*. Harlow Essex, England: Pearson Education Limited, Edinburgh Gate. [https://www.academia.edu/Research\\_Methods\\_for\\_Busi..pdf](https://www.academia.edu/Research_Methods_for_Busi..pdf)
- Scheper-Hughes, N. & Sargent, C. (1998). *Small wars. The cultural politics of childhood*, Berkeley and Los Angeles. <https://www.researchgate.net...Cultural Politics.pdf>
- Sifa, J. (2015). The socio-cultural and economic factors promoting child streetism in Accra, Ghana. [https://www.academia.edu/The\\_Socio-Cultural...pdf](https://www.academia.edu/The_Socio-Cultural...pdf)

- Silver, C., & Lewins, A. (2014). Using software in qualitative research: A step-by-step guide. Sage.
- Skocpol, T. (1992). Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States. *Cambridge, MA*: Belknap Press of Harvard University press. <https://scholar.harvard.edu/thedaskocpol/publications>
- Steinmo, S., Thelen, K. A., & Longstreth, F. (1992). Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis. *Cambridge*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1177/000169939403700413>
- Stevenson, P. (2019). The Moon-Eyed People: Folk Tales from Welsh America. *The History Press*. <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/publication/the-m...>
- Tettegah, C. A. (2012). *'Streetism' or living in the street, an emerging phenomenon as a way of life in developing countries, a case study of children living on the streets of Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nottingham). <http://eprints.nottingham.ac.uk...pdf>
- Tetteh, W. (2018). The Phenomenon of Children Beggars on the Streets of Accra (Doctoral dissertation), University of Ghana. <http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh/handle/123456789/30780>
- Thelen, K. (1999). Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 2, 369-404. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.polisci.2.1.369>
- Thorne, S. E. (2008). Interpretive description. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

- Thorne, S., Kirkham, S. R., & MacDonald-Emes, J. (1997). Interpretive description: A noncategorical alternative for developing nursing knowledge. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 20, 169–177.
- Thorne, S., Kirkham, S. R., & O’Flynn-Magee, K. (2004). The analytic challenge of interpretive description. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 3(1), 1–11.
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (2019/2020). Ghana Child Protection budget analysis. <https://www.unicef.org/ghana/media/3531/file/Child%20Protection%20Budget%20Analysis.pdf>
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (1984). Latin American seminar on community alternatives for street children. Brasilia, Brazil, November 12–15. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12823346\\_St...](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/12823346_St...)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (1988). A Background Paper on Street Children. Submitted at the National Workshop on Street Children, 29-30 August, New Delhi. <https://www.imedpub.com/articles/experiences...>
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (1986). Children in especially difficult circumstances. E/ICEF1986L.3 New York: <https://www.unicef.org/media/file/1993-L13...pdf>
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (1996). Medium-Term Plan for the Period 1996-1999. Children in need of special protection measures. New York: <https://www.unicef.org/media/file/1996-12-...pdf>
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (2001). *A study on street children in Zimbabwe*. Evaluation report. [https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index\\_23829](https://www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_23829)

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2012). *The state of the world's children 2012: children in an urban world*. New York, NY: Author.  
<https://www.unicef.org/sowc2012/pdfs/SOWC-...>
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2019). *Street Children - UNICEF*; Accra, Ghana: Author. <https://documents.unicef.org/curated/pdf>
- United Nations Center for Human Settlement (UNCHS). (1996). "An Urbanizing World, Global Report on Human Settlements 1996", Oxford University Press.  
<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/GRHS.1996.0.pdf>
- United Nations Center for Human Settlement (UNCHS). (2007). *Strategies to combat homelessness*. Nairobi, Kenya: Author. <https://mirror.unhabitat.org/documents>
- Uwe, L. (2003). *Improving Municipal Finance: A Global Challenge*. United Nations Habitat Debates, April. <https://www.alnap.org/resource/files/main>
- Von Zychlin, C. (2016). 'This is My Beloved Daughter-Listen to Her! 'Diaconal Empowerment through Scripture Study among Marginalised Women of the Mekong, In Stephanie
- Dietrich, Knud Jørgensen, Kari Karsrud Korslien and Kjell Nordstokke (2016). *Diakonia in a Gender Perspective*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
- Walden Approved Dissertation No 11-23-21-0754769
- Weible, C.M., & Sabatier, P.A. (2017). *Theories of the policy process* fourth edition. University of Colorado, Denver. <https://www.routledge.com/book>
- World Bank. (2006). *Children and youth: a resource guide for World Bank staff*. New York: World Bank. Retrieved from: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pdf>

World Health Organization (WHO). (1988). *Urbanization and its Implications for Child Health, Potential for Health*, ISBN 92 4 156123 8, Geneva.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle>

Zozus, M. (2017). *The data book: collection and management of research data*. CRC

*Press*. <https://www.routledge.com/Zozus/book>



## Appendix A: Letter of Introduction and Recruitment

Dear Potential Research Participant,

I am Awudu Hansmittson Ismaila, a doctoral student in the School of Public Policy and Administration at Walden University, conducting a research study on Stakeholders' Perspectives on Social Intervention Policy in Curbing Street Children Influx in Ghana.

The purpose of this generic qualitative study is to adequately address and understand stakeholders' perspectives on social intervention policies in curbing street children influx in Ghana and the Child and Family Welfare policy intended to curb the influx.

I am seeking officials in government, nongovernmental organizations, and religious organizations who are major stakeholders in developing and implementing social intervention policies in curbing the influx of street children in the country to participate in the research.

The participation in this study is voluntary, and you may withdraw from the study at any time. The study is completely anonymous and pseudonyms will be used in place of names. The eligibility for participation in this study will include the following criteria: (a) professional involvement with the implementation of street children's policies and programs; (b) first-hand experiences with street children policy implementation in the Greater Accra region, (c) provided or are providing interventions to address the street children phenomenon in Ghana.

Your contribution to this study will be of great importance to assist in positive social change in addressing the influx of street children in the country from a policy perspective.

If you would be interested in participating in this study, kindly review and return the signed consent form which is attached to this email. Please feel free to contact me if you would like additional information via my email at [ismaila.awudu@waldenu.edu](mailto:ismaila.awudu@waldenu.edu)

Respectfully,

Awudu Hansmittson Ismaila,

Doctoral Student, Walden University.

## Appendix B: Interview Questions

1. Briefly describe your experience with the growth of street children in Ghana?
2. Have CFWP programs and activities been effective in preventing and protecting children from forms of violence, neglect, and exploitation? If so, which programs deserve recognition or have been successful? If not, why do you believe these programs and activities failed to be effective
3. Are government and NGO partners effectively coordinating CFW system at all levels? If so, who or what has made this happen? If not, what do you perceive the solution to be? What needs to be done to improve overall coordination?
4. Has the CFWP been effective in empowering children and families to better understand domestic abuse, make choices to prevent street children influx, and respond to situations of risk? If yes, what specific programs are being implemented? If not, what are the challenges in implementation?
5. Has the CFWP helped in promoting reforms of existing laws and policies to reduce streetism? If yes, which laws, regulations, or policies have been effective? Can you provide examples? If no, what are the barriers to implementation of laws or regulations?
6. Has the CFWP provided adequate human, technical, and financial resources required for the effective functioning of the policies and programs at all levels? If yes, where were resources directed? If not, what might have caused the challenge and what could be done to address the situation?

7. Has the CWFP succeeded in helping build the capacity of institutions and service providers in ensuring quality services for children and families in urban and rural areas? If yes, what were the successful implementation strategies? If not, what are the bottlenecks?
8. Has the CFWP systems implementation effectively been monitored and evaluated to achieve their overall objectives? If yes, who are responsible for its monitoring and evaluation and how is it carried out? If not, why is it not being carried out? Who should monitor and evaluate the successes or failures of CFWP?
9. What in your estimation are the factors that has accounted for the street children influx in Ghana and how have social intervention policies broadly helped to address the influx?