

Homeless And Working Youth Around The World: Exploring Developmental Issues

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Findings of a Study Exploring Homeless Street Females in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: A Need for Community Based Programs

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Abstract

A qualitative research design using the interviews of five homeless street females was undertaken to understand the meaning of the lived experiences of the homeless street females and their identified need for community based programs. This research design provided the researchers with the opportunity to understand the complexities of homelessness from the homeless street females in Ethiopia using ethnography. The qualitative study was exploratory in nature and utilized ethnographic methods, such as participant observation and semi-structured interviews within both formal and informal social contexts. This ethnographic approach allowed the homeless street female the opportunity to utilize their own point of view to explore their concerns, attitudes, and personal experiences with caregiving relationships, social supports, coping strategies, gender and stigma, and cultural beliefs and practices in how they manage their lives on the street.

Keywords: Homeless Females in Ethiopia, Homeless Females, Homeless Street Females, Homelessness

1. Introduction and Background

The number of homeless girls and women in Ethiopia is growing and the government does not have a plan to address the issues of youth homelessness. In all stages of homelessness simultaneous action by the government, nongovernment organizations, and homeless individuals is important to address the problem through identifying local resources to meet the needs of the homeless youth (Baynesagn, 2006). The researchers believed that the ethnographic methods used in this study would give the homeless females an opportunity to identify their needs and resources to address their homelessness. In addition, the lived experience of homeless street females may lead to traumatic events each day as these females attempt to survive. While living on the streets females are vulnerable to sexual exploitation including rape and prostitution, as well as physical and emotional violence. While youth homelessness has been studied extensively, the plight of young females who are now adults requires a closer analysis. One of the principle questions that the researchers explored was: What is the nature of caregiving relationships among the homeless street females? This paper is the result of a grant to study homeless street females in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. There are several thousand youth who are homeless sleeping on the streets of Addis Ababa, and girls constitute a significant number of homeless individuals (Tadesse & Mengistu, 1996). The researchers proposed to explore the role that caregiving relationships, social support, coping strategies, gender and stigma, cultural beliefs and practices play in how the homeless street females manage their lives. In order to achieve the goal of this study a small number of homeless street females were selected to share in-depth accounts of their life experiences as homeless youth.

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sample, children's aspirations appear to be shaped by homelessness there are many challenges to overcome to maintain this work. In addition, there is homelessness. Throughout the globe, neo-liberalism as a political and economic system has impacted homeless youth in exploring work and employment options, and to share Institute for Social and Economic Development and the Aspen Institute. Studies in general populations of adolescents around the world (see Nurmi, , for review). developmental significance of future expectations during adolescence. on the streets of one Brazilian city illustrated the challenges to developing a .. Editors, Homeless and working youth around the world: Exploring developmental issues. Street Children and Homeless Youth: A Cross-cultural Perspective. Clearly separates the behaviors and definition of working children from and Working Children Youth around the World: Exploring Developmental Issues. Homeless Youth in the United States: Recent Research Findings and .. and working youth around the world: Exploring developmental issues. The problem of African orphans and street children affected by HIV/AIDS: Homeless and working youth around the world: exploring developmental issues.

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