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Effectiveness of Street Youth Integration in East Africa

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Abstract

Youth unemployment in Africa challenges governments and development partners alike. This problem is hard to tackle because of the lack of reliable data and related analysis on scale, distribution and complexity of employment, unemployment and livelihood situation as well as effective policies, programmes and approaches for young women and men. Vulnerable groups of youth such as those on the Streets are worst hit by this problem.

This study examines the effectiveness of East African institutions in intervening to assist street youth get integrated into the society through acquisition of adequate employment skills or entrepreneurial skills. The study uses a set of data collected by Koinonia Advisory Research and Development Service (KARDS), a community development consultancy in Nairobi, Kenya. The data was collected in 2007 and in 2010. This data is based on the work-activities of street children projects in Nairobi for 122 street children institutions.

It was found out that most institutions disengage the children once they become young adults, leaving them to find jobs and to fend for themselves. Unfortunately, by the time the former street youth are disengaged from institutional benefits they may not have adequate skills for competitiveness in the job markets. This fact underscores the fact that the rehabilitation programmes have less abilities to

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impart adequate community and societal integration skills to the former street youth. There is therefore a need to develop other interventions such as work integration social enterprises (WISE) that would assist the young adults to become independent while helping them deal with barriers inhibiting their competitiveness, ability to get employed, become entrepreneurial and ultimately be able to reintegrate effectively back into the society.

Keywords:
Street Youth, Integration, Reintegration, WISE

Introduction

Youth unemployment in Africa is a major concern to governments and development partners alike. This problem is hard to tackle because of the lack of reliable data and related analysis on scale, distribution and complexity of employment, unemployment and livelihood situation in relation to policies, programmes and different approaches for young women and men (Chigunta F., Schnurr J., James-Wilson D. and Torres V., 2005; Kiiru, Onsomu and Wamalwa, 2009).

According to the United Nations 40 percent of young people in the developing countries live on less than USD 1 per day (UNICEF, 2000). General strategies to address unemployment tend to ignore the vulnerable people in the society (Borzaga, Gui, Povinelli, 2001). Vulnerable youth are groups of young people such as those on the streets, former prisoners, the disabled, the illiterate, youth with special difficulties, ex-combatants and drug addicts amongst others (Muko, Wamalwa, Were and Kabuga 2004). This category of youth is a product of poverty, political instability, war, urbanization and parental loss amongst other causes. The vulnerable youth may participate in crime, sex and drug peddling because of limited income generation alternatives (Wilkinson., 2003). There are over 100 million youth worldwide working and sometimes living on the streets.

In Sub Saharan Africa there are millions of children orphaned not only by AIDS but also other diseases, war or various causes. These children end up growing in traumatic circumstances without the support and care of their immediate family. Approximately 12 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS. By 2010, this number was expected to have surpassed 18 million (Global Fund, 2008) . People working with orphaned children often struggle to understand the

emotional anguish a child experiences as he or she watches one or both of his or her parents die. When one parent is HIV-infected, the probability is high that the other parent is as well. Therefore, children often lose both parents in a quick succession. Many a times the orphan's caregivers too succumb to AIDS, subjecting the children to multiple bereavements. The death of either or both parent and abandonment by caregivers increases the likelihood of children turning to the streets in search of sustenance.

While in the streets the "pull" factors become earning money, getting food, finding freedom and having recreation. Children from economically poor or dysfunctional families may also be pulled to the streets to escape their family conditions too. Domestic conflicts and violence within the family are also featured as key "push" factors for turning to the streets (SNV and GTZ, 2002). Once on the streets the children adopt key strategies in order to ensure their survival and longevity. Children's rights are constantly being violated. The children get harassed and exploited and they exploit others in turn. They are forced to assume adult responsibilities and take care of themselves, their siblings and fellow younger children. Out of necessity they become easy targets for work and sex exploitation receiving meager or sometimes no pay. They are thrust into a miserable, punitive and degenerate environment full of danger in its various forms such as: harassment, violence, drug taking and trafficking, sexual exploitation, loneliness and fear, physical and emotional abuse and neglect, starvation, unplanned pregnancy and parenthood, danger of death through government crackdowns or at the hands of masses and poor hygienic and sanitation conditions (Wilkinson, 2003).

Ageing in the streets has the main disadvantage of denying competitive work and life skills to the street youth. While the street survival skills do help in day to day maneuvering, they become a handicap as the children mature to adulthood (Koinonia, 2006). The mature street youth finds that he lacks employment skills or the ability to become entrepreneurial in comparison to other youth. This lack of skills pits him or her against other youth who have had the opportunity of growing up in a normal family environment, has had formal education and has acquired other important life skills. On the other hand the street youth finds that despite his lack of competitiveness, his needs enlarge as he grows up. In order to finance these needs, boys would resort to

violent crime or peddling drugs, while girls would engage in commercial sex. Involvement in commercial sex exposes the girls to early pregnancy, violence, diseases and death. The boy on the other hand risks death at the hands of the police, the public or other gangsters. This quest for survival contributes to the fact that the street youth find themselves in and out of prisons.

Several organizations offering services to street children help to cover for the psycho-social and emotional losses of street children. Some of the services they offer include education, shelter, food, clothes, medical assistance and recreational activities. Dealing with adolescents and young adults has tended to pose enormous challenges for most institutions. At this time the children become rebellious and hard to control. Boys would get out of the institutions and steal from the public and then run back to the institution for protection. Girls on the other hand are at a risk of becoming pregnant any time (Koinonia, 2006). Several institutions when faced with this reality end up hastily reintegrating children to the society or dismissing them from their programmes. Unfortunately at the time of disengagement from the institutional care, many street youth may not have adequate skills for competitiveness in the job markets or self employment. There is a lack of organizations specializing in taking care of young adults and accompanying them to maturity, yet this is the period that is crucial to their future.

On the other hand there is lack for proper system of reintegrating the youth into the society or disengaging them from institutional benefits. Disengagement is often a sudden occurrence or at other times it is linked to indiscipline or an unfortunate event. Organizations seem not to have a proper plan of what will happen to the children once they become young adults or once the rehabilitation process comes to an end. The risk that children would end up going back to the streets after a long period of rehabilitation cannot be ruled out (Koinonia, 2005), unless there is a dramatic improvement of the concept of institutionalization of street children.

This study examines the effectiveness of reintegration programmes for street youth. Its aim is to find out whether institutions inculcate reintegration aspects that would help the street youth become competitive once they are disengaged from programme benefits. Reintegration skills are important in assisting street youth become

independent, develop the ability to deal with barriers inhibiting their competitiveness in many aspects, and be able to get employed or become entrepreneurial. According to Koinonia (2005) reintegration refers to helping the child and his/her family move towards wholeness. It includes activities geared towards reducing stigma amongst the former street children, challenging the children to acquire new socialization and behavior patterns, helping the children to mature in dignity and creating the physical, emotional and psychological disposition for family reunion and sense of belonging to a family and the society. Efforts at reintegration should always start at the initial contact with the child. A good reintegration program would eventually have the effect of making a former street youth to become confident to participate fully in all the community processes be they political, social, cultural or economic. It also includes developing the ability to compete for employment positions or to create a personal enterprise. These abilities contribute to enhancing the quality of human capital in the society and human development amongst the street youth.

The lack of parental or adult companion care has severe and deep consequences on a child for his or her entire life. In the streets the male child is forced to embrace violence role as a status mark and for identity development. The boy child is expected to be tough and masculine in many social contexts. He will only gain respect if he is strong and ruthless. This means that he has to be emotionally detached, and be willing to become violent so as to resolve interpersonal conflicts. The public nature of a person's image or status identity requires open displays of confrontation including attacks on others, getting revenge for previous conflicts or just protecting members of one's social group. There is a limited amount of respect available and the process of acquiring it is highly competitive. Wilkinson (2003) realized that the chances for former street youth to obtain wealth and power were so miniscule via legitimate pathways that many opted for the fleeting glory of the street over a life of unremarkable toil. The youth in his study choose to live "short and large" rather than long and boring lives. Hence an effective reintegration programme should incorporate aspects that work on personal reforms, shifting the mental construct, radical behavior change and moving away from a delinquent life.

A youth development or life-course perspective is most useful coining strategies to reduce the negative outcomes of street life.

Interventions programs need to be geared toward the inter-related problems and deficits that youth experience. Making the transition to adulthood and productive adult role is difficult for almost all people. Hence young people need support in making these difficult transitions (Muko et al 2004). They do not magically become self-sufficient at the age of majority. Most young adults rely on support—both emotional and financial—of families and friends. If support is not available within those relationships human beings find other ways of coping and surviving. Most street youth do not have adequate social support, guidance, and positive modeling. The street youth would hence benefit from comprehensive youth development interventions that include: life skills training, employment readiness, educational remediation, parenting and family planning, housing assistance, counseling for violence, alcohol and drug abuse, and relationship issues, family support, and cognitive therapy. These are interventions that incorporate the issues and concerns facing street-adolescent males (Wilkinson, 2003).

Methodology and Data Analysis

The study uses a set of data collected by Koinonia Advisory Research and Development Service (KARDS), a community development consultancy in Nairobi, Kenya compiled in 2007 and 2010. This data is based on the work-activities of street children projects in Nairobi for 122 street children institutions.

The data was collected between May and July 2006 and a follow up data on October to December 2010. In 2010 the exercise began with a meeting of street children caregivers and two consultant organizations (KARDS and COCESCI) in Nairobi. The meeting participants discussed and shared on their work experiences. The consultants on the other hand helped to bridge the gap between the literature review and experiences on the ground. From this meeting common terminologies in the process of protection and care of street children in Nairobi were agreed on and they included street work, rehabilitation, reintegration, outreach and networking. With this understanding a questionnaire for data collection was then developed. In 2010, same organizations were approached with a questionnaire that addressed aspects not covered in 2007.

In both 2007 and 2010, researchers were identified and inducted thoroughly for a period of five days. They were dispatched to Embakasi constituency to test the research tool. From the finding of tool testing exercise, the respective questionnaires were adjusted to reflect what was found on the field in order to make them more understandable. The researchers were eventually dispatched to different constituencies of the wider Nairobi. Each constituency was covered in a period of three days by three research assistants. After a visit to each constituency, the research assistants would come together to share of their field experiences in preparation for the next visit.

A sample of eleven constituencies were chosen for this survey exercise. The main areas of interest were the Nairobi constituencies then followed by those constituencies that closely bordered Nairobi such as Juja, Kabete and Ngong. In 2007 the most familiar children institutions were identified and from these institutions, the researchers were snowballed to other institutions within the constituency. In other instances the researchers had to look for street children who would lead them to the institutions. In each constituency, the researchers identified government institutions, capacity building and advocacy institutions, children centers and homes, initiatives for economic livelihood or self help groups dealing directly with the plight of the street children and formal, non formal and informal educational institutions working with the children. In 2010 however, the researchers approached the institutions that responded to our study in 2007. Qualitative data was organized and analyzed in themes. Qualitative data helped to capture the latent dimensions overlooked by the quantitative data. Quantitative data was processed and analyzed using SPSS.

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Street Children Institutions by registration
In total we were able to find 122 interventions of street children distributed as follow;

Type of organization	Frequency	Percentage
Self Help Groups	34	27.05
Government Run Institutions	9	7.38

Faith based organizations	50	40.98
NGO	22	18.03
Charitable Trusts	1	0.82
Other organizations	6	4.92
Total	122	100

Source: Computations from the data

40.98 percent of the responding organizations were faith based organizations. The faith based organizations were linked to Christian, Moslem or Hindu faiths. 27.05% are self help groups. The self help groups are grassroots community based organizations in Kenya. They are considered to be the largest form of community service organizations. The third largest organizations forming 18.03% were the non governmental organizations (NGOs). The NGOs in Kenya are registered under the NGO Coordination Act of 1996. They can have either a national or an international mandate. The government of Kenya (7.38%) too had some of the largest institutional facilities for street children located in various areas of Nairobi. The government started these facilities after the coming in of the NARC Coalition in 2002. The government centers do mainly concentrate in providing vocational skills to the street youth. The other organizational types accounting for 4.92% include trusts, foundations, societies, associations and companies limited by guarantee. Of interest is the charitable institution accounting for 0.82%. The charitable institutions are the children institutions which have been inspected and certified by the government that they are of the best quality in bringing assisting vulnerable children.

Table 2: The Distribution of street children Institutions in the Wider Nairobi

Constituency	Frequency	Percentage
Kasarani	27	22.50
Langata	27	22.50
Dagoretti	20	16.67
Starehe	14	11.67
Embakasi	12	10.00
Westlands	12	9.17

Kamukunji	3	2.50
Kajiado North	2	1.67
Kabete	2	1.67
Makadara	1	0.83
Juja	1	0.83
Total	120	11

Source: Computations from the data

Kasarani (22.5%), Langata (22.5%) and Dagoretti (16.67%) constituencies have the greatest number of street children institutions in Nairobi. This is easily explained by the fact that a majority of lowest income earners of Nairobi are located in these places. Total population in Langata is 368,274; out of this 189,898 reside in Kibera and Laini Saba Slums. The total population in Kasarani is 338,202 and out of this 272,758 live in Githurai, Kahawa, Kariobangi and Korogocho signifying that the region has many low income earners. On the other hand the population in Dagoretti 240.081. Out of this 86,824 reside in Kawangware considered to contain most of the lowest income earners in that constituency. Starehe (14%) on the other hand has a total population of 329,769 much of which is concentrated in Huruma and Mathare. The high number of institutions signifies that there are many street children in those places and that poverty levels are high.

Table 3: The distribution of Street Children Institutional Objectives

Objectives	Frequency	Percentage
Street work	44	13.75
Rehabilitation	97	30.31
Reintegration	72	22.50
Outreach	93	29.06
Street work	44	13.75
Other	14	4.38
Total	320	100

Source: Computations from data

The major objective is the rehabilitation of children accounting for 30.31% of organizational occupation. Outreach activities accounted for 29%. Outreach activities entail assisting the non primary beneficiaries who could either be the parents of the street children or other children in difficult circumstances. Reintegration activities accounted for 22% of the organizational activities. Lastly 14% of the respondents indicated that they were involved in street work. This study will concentrate in analyzing the different activities of the reintegration activities with respect to young street adults.

Table 4: Reintegration activities

Reintegration activities	Frequency	Percentage
Family Empowerment	53	12.33
Self Help Initiatives (e.g. IGA's etc)	56	13.02
Spiritual accompaniment	56	13.02
Working with young adults	52	12.09
Contacts with the family	68	15.81
Counseling	72	16.74
Community Involvement	71	16.51
Other	2	0.47
Total	430	100.00

Source: Computations from the data

Reintegration counseling accounts for 16.74% of all activities associated with reintegration. This counseling is usually targeted to the child about to be disengaged from the programme and to be united with his family. In most cases the counseling is done to reduce the fear that the child has in rejoining his family who may have been violent or his or her relatives who declined to help him incase she or he is an orphan. In most institutions this reintegration takes place when the child is in the last year of the primary school. A second way in which institutions try to prepare the children for reintegration is through community involvement which accounts for about 16.51% of all organizational activities.

Community participation includes enrolling the children in the public institutions such as the primary schools, sporting facilities, social and cultural activities and any other important community activity that may help the children experience a full reintegration.

Other community involvement activities include industrial liason and voluntary activities etc. Contacts with the family (15.81%) entails trying to find the whereabouts of the children's families. This is the most difficult task as most children may have disappeared from their homes when they were too young and may not have had any real contacts with their parents. On the other hand their parent may have died and hence there would be need to establish contacts with their extended relatives. In several cases the relatives are very poor and this forces the institutions to promise to economically empower them (12.33%) for sometime in order to facilitate a smooth reintegration with the child about to be disengaged. The economic incentive does serve to create the enthusiasm for the relatives to accept the new child. The reintegrations have been found to fail after shortly after with dire consequences on the youth who has now been officially cut of from his or her former institution.

Working with young street adults accounts for 12% of all reintegration activities in Nairobi. Projects working in these areas offer vocational training and other important life skills. Important interventions included rescue centers for teenage mothers, rape victims and for children of women finding themselves in the prisons. There were also institutions helping in the rehabilitation of male and female ex-prisoners. It is a fact that a majority of street youth end up in the prisons for petty or major crimes. Some centers encourage the street youth to explore talents in athletics, music, and art hoping that they will become of economic benefit to the street youth. It is important however to note that a majority of institutions shy away from working with the street youth. Some of the reasons for this fear include:

– Teenage pregnancy
– Street youth are a source of insecurity both to the institution and the community around.
– Street youth are always in and out of the prisons. Hence they are hardened and can easily influence the young ones.
– Older street youth have other issues too such as social problems like drug peddling and addiction, may abuse the young children and are violent.

- Because of their promiscuity they are highly exposed to high possibilities of infection including the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- They are difficult to reintegrate back into the society for various reasons social, economic etc. Hence it is also difficult for them to fully accept the world of work and employment.
- Their social lives are in disorder and hence cannot become positive role models to others.

There are hence very few capacity building and advocacy institutes promoting the welfare of the street youth. These institutions too are overwhelmed and can't do much because the demand is very high. The parent of the street youth are also in bad shape socially (they could have been in the streets earlier or are generally very poor) and hence can not provide them with support they need to be independent. Income generating activities account for 13.02% of all the activities. Entrepreneurial activities of a self help nature are usually undertaken by innovative youth leaders with a strong desire to become financially independent and also to help their friends be independent. These leaders organize entrepreneurial activities mainly in manual transportation (cart pulling), recycling and sanitation, repairs and maintenance, tailoring and lastly food business. It is also worth noting that some of the former street youth do create institutions for taking care of other street children (wounded healers). One most amazing discovery is the fact that most of the institutions are run on self-help basis, with no sure and regular income. These initiatives not only give the street youth great satisfaction but also assist them to reintegrate into the society. However, it is also noted that many income generating initiatives run by former street youth have no permanent life and do fizzle out after sometime.

Table 5: Reintegration strategies

Reintegration strategy	Freq	Percentage
Reintegrate through government support	2	2.90
Reintegrate through guardianship and family support	10	14.49
Children leave on their own	1	1.45

Assisted get employment	6	8.70
Assisted start Income generating activities	8	11.59
Assisted life skills for independence	4	5.80
Dropped after primary education	4	5.80
Dropped while being assisted with secondary education	6	8.70
Assisted join vocational training institutes	14	20.29
Other co curricular activities	2	2.90
References to other institutes	8	11.59
Given a certificate of exit	2	2.90
Assisted with living expenses for sometime after disengagement	1	1.45
Facilitate support groups amongst the former street youth	1	1.45
Total	69	100

Source: Data Computations

The most common reintegration strategy used is to help the young street adults acquire vocational skills. 20.29% of organizations believe that vocational skills equip the young adult with tools to confront the challenges they will face after leaving the institution. 14.49% of respondents pursue the reintegration activities through guardianship and family support. Guardianship and family support could involve both foster or extended relationships. On the other hand children are referred to other institutions that do deal with young adults by 13.04% of the

responding organizations. However according to our analysis above, institutions dealing with young adults constitute only 12% of the reintegration activities and only 2% of the entire activities to help street youth. This clearly shows that most of these institutions are overwhelmed and only a few of the referred youth do get support from them and hence a majority of the youth have start fending for themselves immediately they leave their rehabilitation period.

11.59% of reintegration activities are geared towards helping the youth start their own businesses. Institutions applying this strategy may either assist the youth with working tools or loans to establish a business. However it is a fact that the capital items will be sold by the youth after a short while and the businesses started never succeed. Some 6% of the institutions link the youth to activities that may lead to their employment. These activities include the Jua Kali sector or other practical places such as hotels, beauty salons, tailoring shops, mechanic garages or even carpentry shops. It has always been noted that the former street youth lack employability skills and soon enough they lose their employment opportunities. They may steal small things from their employers and sell them, or may come at job intoxicated or even at times not able to complete some quality work. Their potential employers in the long run find it too expensive to continue employing them.

Several institutions start cutting links with the young adults while they are in the secondary school (8.70%). The links are cut gradually throughout the four years in that by the time the student finishes school he or she understands that any further benefits are just on merit and not automatic. Other programmes severe links immediately the student completes the final class in primary school (8.70%).

Imparting life skills for personal independence (5.80%) includes human capital formation, and other important activities such as allowing the voluntary participation of the youth in the programmes in areas of decision making and care of those younger than himself. As part of their exit activity, some of the programmes award their graduands a "certificate of exit" (2.90%). This certificate is a hallmark of the end of the relationship with the programme benefits a reminder that they have no further claim from their former institution. Some other strategies include linking the youth to other co curricular activities (2.90%) or assisting them reintegrate through governmental (2.90%) support in obtaining valuable documents such as identity cards. Assisting these

youth obtain identity cards is a great service to them as most of them find great problems in getting these documents. Unfortunately in Kenya, the lack of an identity card means that one is not employable.

Some other reintegration strategies include giving the youth the freedom to leave on their own within a set time limit. When they do not respect this time limit, they are forced to leave the institutions. This could be done by assisting them move out of the institution and meeting their expenses for sometime before dropping them from the assistance. A few organizations have formed alumni associations of the old graduands of their institutions who usually are very willing to receive the new graduates and accompany them until when they become independent.

Table 6: Reintegration challenges

Challenge	Frequency	Percentage
Do not have an effective exit strategy for the matured children	7	14.58
Children have to be compelled the children to leave	3	6.25
Some children have nowhere to go to after rehabilitation	2	4.17
Children are left to stay until a solution is found	10	20.83
Handicapped are a great challenge to reintegrate	1	2.08
Most children leave and have no sense of belonging to the institution after they leave	5	10.42

Difficulty to obtain national identity cards for the young adults without known kins	20	41.67
Total	48	100

Source: Data Computations

Most programmes seem not to have a clear policy on reintegration (14.58%) while others not knowing how to deal with the situation leave the youth to stay at the center (20.83%) until a solution is found. The solution could entail compelling the child to leave the institution against his or her will (6.25%) however it gets compounded when the youth have nowhere to go to or no one to turn to (4.17%). The other most difficult challenge is the reintegration of the severely handicapped people such as the mental cases or physically disabled (2.08%). In most of the cases their families find it hard to accept them back because of the costs associated with their care. Lastly the biggest problem as far as the reintegration of former street children is concerned is the difficulty to obtain the national identity cards for these children (41.67%). This problem automatically locks out these youth from any meaningful employment activities.

One of the challenge mentioned includes the fact that several children leave and have no sense of belonging to the institution after they leave (10.42%). This could be associated with the fact that their experiences in the rehabilitation institution could have inflicted in them some more emotional wounds. On the other hand, the young adults may want to conceal that part of history in order to fit well into the society. However, denying relationship with their former institution may mean that they would shy to help their young peers with societal reintegration experience. Organizations have to work on this problem in order that reintegration experience from former graduates of their institutions may diffuse to the newer graduates.

Conclusion

Complete street youth reintegration will always remain a real big challenge to both programmes and the governments in general. Helping the street youth complete a secondary school or go successfully through an educational system is not simply enough. There are many factors militating against the young adult that will always affect his or her competitiveness in the job market ranging from psychological issues such as past trauma, lack of confidence to stand up to societal demands, personal addictions and stigma and discrimination. The street youth integration hence, tends to present a formidable challenge to the society in East Africa.

It is a fact that if the street youth are not well reintegrated, then the entire period and resources used in their rehabilitation would be considered a waste. A poor reintegration programme would push further the disillusioned street youth to crime and exploitation. Girls could be pushed to prostitution risking pregnancy, violence and diseases. Boys on the other hand risk premature deaths as they engage in untold acts of violence. Other problems associated with poor reintegration activities include: the reintegrated youth will always be in and out of prisons (jail bugs), he or she will form a dysfunctional families, high level exposure to HIV/AIDS, difficulty to integrate into the world of work, susceptibility to human trafficking (Ochanda, Nyambura and Wakinya, 2010), inability to undertake enterprise and employment for their own independence, high deaths due to suicides and violence.

Several studies in Europe have looked at strategies which could help vulnerable populations get the skills required in the world of work. These set of strategies are collectively known as the work integration social enterprises (WISE). Some of the WISEs are supported by governments (Bode, Avers and Schulz, 2004) while others are supported by social enterprises. The WISEs enable both occupational and social integration amongst other goals such as creating short term employment. The activities of WISE mostly focus on occupational integration, combining training, social support, work activity and job placement.

WISEs could also be viewed as intermediate labour market agencies, bridging periods of joblessness and temporary employment. WISEs would certainly have a great effect in imparting competitive skills for employment and entrepreneurship amongst the street youth. They

stand for a holistic approach to social reintegration. They attempt to bring jobless people back in what can be labeled ordinary society by combining economic activities, social empowerment and infrastructure building, change public opinion, contribute to community development and in the production of goods or services deemed to serve the common cause (Borzaga, Gui, Povinelli, 2001).

On the other hand, it is not very clear why activities geared towards youth reintegration are very minimal in Nairobi and East Africa generally. One of the possible reasons could be the lack of financial support for such programmes. Hence, it is important that integration programmes that have the desired impacts be supported. While assisting the children reach maturity is important, guiding them in their initial maturity stage becomes of necessity.   Research that is geared towards promoting reintegration solutions of the vulnerable sections of the community too needs support.

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