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Children on the Streets of Ibadan Nigeria: Neglect of Children's Rights

Les Enfants des Rues à Ibadan, au Nigeria: Négligence des Droits de l'Enfant

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: The Nigerian Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 2008 enacted prohibitive laws against child streetism. However, in metropolises like Ibadan, there is a growing epidemic of street children, particularly the category with existing family ties known as “children on the streets”. Children on the street come from home daily to engage in economic-oriented activities on the streets and return home to their families at night time.

OBJECTIVE: We focused on perceptions of formal responses to the problem of child streetism in Ibadan.

METHODS: This was qualitative research. Participants were selected from each of the five urban LGA of Ibadan, purposively and by snowball technique. In-depth Interviews (IDI) were conducted, audio-recorded and transcribed. Framework analysis of data was supported by ATLAS-Ti version 22.

RESULTS: Fifty-three (53) interviews were conducted including IDI with ten (10) child-welfare officers, ten (10) street shop owners, eleven (11) children on the street, and ten (10) pairs of parent-child dyads. Two themes emerged including governmental shortcomings with six subthemes and suboptimal governmental interventions with four sub-themes. Child streetism in Ibadan is a consequence of the State's failed education systems, inadequate children's vocational and rehabilitation programs, lax child welfare laws, lack of empowerment of skilled children, and poor implementation of the policy on ideal family size. Interventions that were existing but sub-optimal included community-based child welfare programs, parental poverty alleviation, public sensitisation and child welfare monitoring programmes.

CONCLUSION: There is an urgent need to update, enforce laws, and amalgamate efforts against child streetism in Ibadan.

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KEYWORDS: Child Streetism, Welfare, Child Rights, Laws, Family.

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: La Convention nigériane relative aux droits de l'enfant (CRC) de 2008 a promulgué des lois interdisant le travail des enfants dans la rue. Cependant, dans des métropoles comme Ibadan, il existe une épidémie croissante d'enfants des rues, en particulier la catégorie ayant des liens familiaux existants connue sous le nom d'"enfants des rues". Les enfants des rues viennent de chez eux tous les jours pour participer à des activités orientées vers l'économie dans les rues et rentrent chez eux auprès de leurs familles le soir.

OBJECTIF: Nous nous sommes concentrés sur les perceptions des réponses formelles au problème du travail des enfants dans la rue à Ibadan.

MÉTHODES: Il s'agissait d'une recherche qualitative. Les participants ont été sélectionnés dans chacun des cinq LGA urbains d'Ibadan, de manière délibérée et par la technique de la boule de neige. Des entretiens approfondis (IDI) ont été réalisés, enregistrés et retranscrits. L'analyse thématique des données a été soutenue par ATLAS-Ti version 22.

RÉSULTATS: Cinquante-trois (53) entretiens ont été menés, comprenant des IDI avec dix (10) agents de protection de l'enfance, dix (10) propriétaires de magasins de rue, onze (11) enfants des rues et dix (10) paires de dyades parent-enfant. Deux thèmes ont émergé, comprenant des lacunes gouvernementales avec six sous-thèmes et des interventions gouvernementales suboptimales avec quatre sous-thèmes. Le travail des enfants dans la rue à Ibadan est une conséquence des systèmes éducatifs défectueux de l'État, des programmes de formation et de réadaptation insuffisants pour les enfants, des lois laxistes sur la protection de l'enfance, du manque d'autonomisation des enfants qualifiés et de la mauvaise mise en œuvre de la politique sur la taille idéale de la famille. Les interventions existantes mais suboptimales comprenaient des programmes communautaires de protection de l'enfance, l'alleviation de la pauvreté des parents, la sensibilisation du public et les programmes de suivi de la protection de l'enfance.

CONCLUSION: Il est urgent de mettre à jour, d'appliquer les lois et de regrouper les efforts contre le travail des enfants dans la rue à Ibadan.

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MOTS-CLÉS: Travail des enfants dans la rue, Protection sociale, Droits de l'enfant, Lois, Famille

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Abbreviations: CRA: Child Rights Act; CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child; CYPA: Children and Young Persons Act; LMICs: Low-and Middle-Income Countries; SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals; UNICEF: United Nations Children's Funds