

**THE IMPLICATIONS OF STREET CHILDREN ON SECURITY IN  
SOKOTO METROPOLIS**

**BY**

**ALIYU RILWANU  
ADM. NO: 1011203081**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT BEING SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
OF SOCIOLOGY, USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY SOKOTO.IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD  
OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSC.HONS) DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY.**

**OCTOBER, 2015**

**CERTIFICATION**

This research study has been read and approved as meeting the requirement of the Department of Sociology for the award of B.Sc. (Hon) in Sociology of the Faculty of Social Science, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mal. Ahmad Magaji  
Project Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Ahmed U. Karofi  
Head of Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
External Examiner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **DEDICATION**

This research is dedicated to the Almighty Allah (S.W.A), the lord of the universe who has ordered mankind to seek for knowledge. Who has also given me the opportunity to see the accomplishment of this research work.

Also, this research work is whole heartedly dedicated to my lovely parents AlhajiAliyuJafar and my Mum Maryam Adamu whose love, support and courage both morally and financially has seen through and would continue to see me through.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and foremost my profound gratitude goes to the Almighty Allah (S.W.A) for his blessing, guidance, and protection to me throughout my days in the university and without him it would not have been possible to get this state of my life. Indeed, I am greatly indebted to him.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude go to my supervisor Malam Ahmad Magaji who I have learnt a lot from, he is not just a project supervisor or a teacher to me but also a guider and a role model in the field of my academic commitment.

I want to thank him very much for his patience, support, encouragement, assistance and effort for finding and sparing the time despite his busy schedule to attend to me, and which has made this research work a reality.

My appreciation goes to my lecturer's prof. Dejo A., Ahmed Karofi, Dr. T.M. Baba, MalamAbubakarJibrin, Malam Muhammad Sokoto (Mni), Dr. Dan-Sabo, Prof. Khalid, Malam M. Gado and HauwaDantake and other lecturers in and outside Sociology Department.

My love, prayers and appreciation goes to the families of late Engineer Umar AbubakarBena and that of late Engineer AbdulhamidDiri (Maidamma) who gave me all necessary support in my educational process.

Special appreciation goes to my uncles and aunties Ma'arufAlmajiri, Yusuf Umar, Shu'ibu Umar, AuwalAliyu, Sanusi Suleiman, HalihuAlmajiri, Baba Habiba, Baba Suwaiba, Inna Asma'u, Inna Maimuna, Malam Sani Dantani and others I really thank you for all your prayers and courage.

My love and appreciation also goes to my special wife to be Insha Allah Sakina Suleiman and my In-law Suleiman Muhammad Dan-

Baduku whose love and motivation has kept me going at all time especially during my stay in school.

My appreciation and gratitude goes to my brothers and sisters Ashir, Attahir, Malam Farouk, Ibrahim, Awaisu, Adamu, Shitu, Rayyanu, Rufa'i, Basiru, Badamasi, Shafa, Fatima, Aisha, Shamsia, Balira, Muzammil, Shamsu, Mika'il, Nusaiba and may others, who have in one way or the other contributed to the success of my stay in school.

My special thanks also go to my unforgettable friends Ibrahim Ladan, Buhari Sani, Abdulrahman Shamaki, Jamilu Abubakar Gatawa, Rabi'u Ibrahim, Abdullahi Dangwal, Jamilu Sabi'u, Idris Bena, Hassan Abubakar, Buhari Muhammad (BMS), Ashiru Bangi, Sa'ad Abdulmalik Sa'ad, Abdulkadir Kyari, Shanwilu Muhammad Kardi, Abdul Yellow K7, Kabir Dada, Suleiman Larger, Malam Sani, Murtala Danjuma, Hajiya Zainab, Tasiu Usman (BK) to mention but few. My thanks are rendered especially to my other numerous friends whose name are not within reach now, I also say a big thank you, God bless you all.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of contents	vi
Abstract	ix

### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background To The Study-	1
1.2 Statement Of The Research Problem	4
1.3 Research Questions	8
1.4 Research Objectives	8
1.5 Significance Of The Study-	9
1.6 Scope Of The Research	10
1.7 Operationalization Of Concepts-	11

### **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAME WORK**

2.1 Introduction	12
2.2 Conceptualizing Street Children	12
2.2.1 Who Are Street Children	12
2.3 Factors That Lead To the Increasing Number Of Street Children	13
2.4 The Patterns of Delinquent Behaviour Associated With Street Children	17
2.5 The Level At Which Street Children Affect Security In Sokoto	20
2.6 Means through Which Street Children Can Be Reduced	22

2.7	Consequences Of Street Children	-	-	-	-	-	24
2.8	Theoretical Framework	-	-	-	-	-	26

**CHAPTER THREE;METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	30
3.2	Historical Background Of The Study Area	-	-	-	-	30	
3.3	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	32
3.4	Population Of The Study	-	-	-	-	-	32
3.5	Sample Size And Procedure	-	-	-	-	-	32
3.6	Method Of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	33
3.7	Instrument Of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	34
3.7.1.	Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	-	-	-	-	-	34
3.7.2	Key Informant Interview (KII)	-	-	-	-	-	34
3.8:	Method Of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	34

**CHAPTER FOUR; DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

4.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	35
4.2	Presentation Of Data And Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	36
4.2.1	Who Are Street Children	-	-	-	-	-	36
4.3	Factors Associated With The Escalating Number Of Street Children In Sokoto Metropolis	-	-	-	-	39	
4.4	Patterns Of Delinquent Behaviour (S) Associated With Street Children	-	-	-	-	-	45
4.5	The Level At Which Street Children Affect Security In Sokoto Metropolis	-	-	-	-	-	51
4.6	How Street Children Could Be Reduced	-	-	-	-	-	58
4.7	Discussion Of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	62

**CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

5.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	67
5.2	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	67

5.3 Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68
5.4 Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
References	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
Appendix I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	76
Appendix II	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79



## **ABSTRACT**

Security challenges is one of the major social problems confronting not only Sokoto Metropolis or Nigeria in general, but most of the third world countries and some other parts of the world. Street children are often found to be active participants in most of the social uprisings that were witnessed in some parts of Nigeria, particularly Sokoto metropolis. The quest to find out why and how the number of street children is increasing and how it affects the level of security prompted the conduct of this research work. In the course of the research, qualitative research technique was adopted. Focus Group Discussion and key informant Interviews were the methods through which data were gathered. The data were presented in narrative form (prose style) whereas content analysis was used in the interpretation of the data. Social disorganization theory was used in as the theoretical framework. The research work found poverty, unemployment and poor and inadequate learning facilities as the major contributors to the escalating number of street children. In the course their day to day activities, the street children were found engaging in some delinquent activities such as theft, smoking and sexual practices etc. during any social upspring, they were found to be active participants and consequently, increase the rate of material and human damages. It was also found that solutions to the increasing number of street children revolve around family, community and government efforts. The researchers recommended employment generation, less family reliance on children and formulation of some welfare policies as the solutions to the increasing number of street children and their implications generally.

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.8 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

Biologically, a child is generally a human between the stages of birth and puberty. The legal definition of child generally refers to a minor, otherwise known as a person younger than the age of majority. On the other hand, the United Nations convention on the right of a child (1984), as cited in Wikipedia, defines a child as a human being below the age of eighteen (18) years, unless under the law applicable to child, majority is attained earlier. Wholly, children of or below the age of eighteen are expected to be in schools and other related training centers to realize and develop their potentials. (UNCRC, 1984)

However, certain social problems such as poverty, family breakdown, peer-pressure, hawking and begging (in some part of Nigeria) make these children to drop out of schools and roam about the streets in their thousands in most cities of many third world countries particularly Nigeria, such children are often referred to as “Street Children” (Oha, 2008).

Street children are a term for children experiencing homelessness who live on the streets of a city. Street children, according to Brethaton, (2005), are those children (under the age of eighteen), whose lives and livelihood are primarily understood in terms of their relationships’ to the streets. Bretherton (2005) also argues that they are characterized by

loneliness on the street, shelterlessness, loss of parental contact and protection, love and care etc. They are mostly at risk of certain social problems (such as harassment, trafficking, hunger etc) and also a risk to the societal stability.

According to Fakoya (2009), “two different categories of street children are found in Nigeria.” There are those who live and work in the street (children of the street) and those who live and work on the street full or part-time, but return to their homes each night (children in the street)”. In the case of this research project, the two categories will comprise the subject matter of the study. This is due to the fact that the two categories constitute the leprous arms of the same alarming social problem which is security challenges. According to Oha (2003), the escalating phenomena of street children is being propelled by corruption coupled with legendary mismanagement of natural resources which has made the provision of social amenities (including schools) for these children almost impossible in Nigeria.

Consequently, these children look forward for necessary means through which they respond to their needs. These means include; begging, theft, hawking, drug abuse, picking pocket and above all, constituting a major tools of violence by becoming ethno-religious soldiers in many social upheavals. Therefore, this becomes serious implications on security of the third world countries, particularly Nigeria. The prevalence of

street children and their delinquent tendencies, which sometimes threatens the security level in Nigeria, is associated with the consequences of social disorganization that is high in the less-developed parts of the urban areas.

According to Olutuah and Adesifi (2008), urban areas are characterized by migrants, with a diversity of cultural backgrounds and practices that come to participate in different spheres of the urban centers. The high rate of influx of people to the urban centers leads to disproportionate chances of social participation. Consequently, unemployment, poverty and related problems characterized the inner cities of the urban areas which result to the formation of slums and ghettos, with weakened integrative forces and high rate of criminals and delinquent tendencies.

In Sokoto, street children are mostly found in the slums like Dandima, Kanwuri, Iraki, Ahmadu Bello way, Emir Yahaya, Tsohowar kasuwa, Shagon goro, Sabowar kasuwa, Hajiya Halima etc (Abdu, 2008). Abdu, (2008), further argued that, a number or a large proportion of these children were recruited from Almajiranci schools (Muslims system of education peculiar to northern Nigeria and some segment of neighboring West African countries). Whereas, other categories of children are boys and girls street hawkers, bus conductors, garbage collectors among others (hence the Almajirai also participate in such activities).

These street children are more likely to engage in drug addiction, harassment of other children and even adult in areas where they live. Their areas of operational concentration include; market place, garage (motor-park), schools premises (after school hours), football field, children playing ground, places of festivals and places where politicians conducting their campaign. It is clear in Nigeria, particularly Sokoto metropolis that street children correlate with security challenges such as lack of law and order, theft, Vandalization of private and public properties, increase rate of homicide, political thuggery and above all violent attack on people and even the security personnel etc. These become a very serious social pathology that requires collective and effective effort of government, professionals and general public to tackle.

### **1.9 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

Although, the nature of street children may differ across countries, the problem of street children has become a global phenomenon. Even in developed nations, the phenomenon is said to be pronounced (though relatively lower than the developing or undeveloped nations) especially among the less privileged class (the racially, politically, socially and economically segregated or isolated etc) of the societies. For example, in a paper titled “prevalence, abuse and exploitation of street children in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 2000 to 2010”, written by Reeves (2011), it was argued that, there were

1.3 million homeless and runaway children who were forced out of their homes, abandoned by foster care system or are part of the homelessness family. These children engage in different forms of delinquent behavior, ranging from drug abuse, theft, bullying and other forms of violent activities that affect the lives and properties of people. In the later age of their lives, they graduate into more sophisticated dangerous criminal gangs, performing violent criminal activities like; robbery, prostitution and drug abuse. In the United Kingdom, Bretherton (2005) argues, there are few statistics on youth homeless, center point in London which provide a place to stay for over 500 young people every night, in the year 2000, one in the five were 16-17 year old. This justifies the global presence of street children.

Because the prevalence of street children is associated with underdevelopment, poverty and inadequate of social amenities, the phenomena is said to persist more in the third world countries including Latin America, Africa and some parts of Asia. Most often, street children serve as reservoir where militias visit at will to forcefully recruit more members which increase the security challenges or in other ward which bring a very serious implication on security in most African countries. For example, therefore, according to Selva (2004), more than 100,000 children have been abducted to fight in Africa's long-running civil wars in the past few years. Teenage

boys and girls forced to join militias are being subjected to psychological torture so that they can be indoctrinated. Example of places where street children served such function include: Congo, Sudan, Rwanda, Nigeria and Somalia. It is clear that without taking an effective measure towards monitoring the increasing figure of street children in Africa, African Nations will have no end to different forms of implications on security which will eventually, stagnate political stability, social integrations and economic development and prosperity (Selva) 2004.

Coming down to the implication of street children in Nigeria, it is obvious that in almost all major urban cities of Nigeria: Lagos, Kano, Port-Harcourt, Ibadan, Kaduna and Sokoto etc, the problem remain the same. Even though, for the past thirty to forty years, Nigeria did not witness any civil war, ethno-religious and political crises characterized most of the urban centers. In most of the ethno-religious and political crisis witnessed in Kaduna, Jos, Kano, Lagos and the contemporaries in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe and Bauchi, street children contributed immensely in the brutal and fatal activities, sometimes they are even argued to be initial agents of such crisis (Nte, Eke and Igbaribo, 2009). Those that are free from ethno-religious and political crisis engage in other forms of delinquent behavior which directly endangers the lives and properties of Nigerians. These make

certain locations such as streets and jungle to be dangerous for people, especially in the night or early hours of the day.

Shagon goro (old market), Hajiya Halima, Masallanci Shehu, New market, Dandima and Gawon Nama top the list of the major points in which the street children struggle for their survival in Sokoto. They engage in activities such as selling of sachet water, begging, bus conducting and other engage in stealing, pick- pocketing and other forms of criminal and delinquent behavior to earn a living. It was reported that during certain upheavals such as shi'a crisis, miss world crisis and the recent post-election violence of 2011 and current coming election (2015 general election) these street children constituted a vast number of ethno-religious armies to the parties involved. The delinquent activities of the street children increase the implications and threat on security nationwide, particularly in Sokoto metropolis which requires a collective effort of solution (Abdulganiyu founder of save the child initiative (STCI), 2006).

It is obvious that the increasing number of the street children in Nigeria, particularly Sokoto, threatens the lives and properties and even well-being of the people. This is because, the children often engage or participate in drug addiction which gullible them into more sophisticated criminal and delinquent practices and sometimes facilitating religious and political crisis in the state. As a matter of fact, this



problem needs to be critically evaluated so that genuine solutions will be provided for it. This solution will serve as an effective step in combating one of the major security challenges in Nigeria, particularly the recent operations of “jama’atul ahlisunna lidda’awati waljihad” popularly known as “Boko-Haram”. If at all the number of these children will be extremely reduced, the brutal and fatal operation of certain sects, as they rely on these street children to be hired to their activities, will also be impaired.

### **1.10 Research Questions**

At the end of this study the researcher will find answer to the following questions?

1. What are the factors responsible for the escalating number of street children?
2. What are the patterns of delinquent behavior associated with street children?
3. How do street children affect level of security in Sokoto metropolis?
4. What are the possible outcomes through which street children can be reduced to minimal level?

### **1.11 Research Objectives**

The general objective of the research project is to examine the relationship between the prevalence of street children and their implications on security in Sokoto metropolis. The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the factors responsible for the escalating number of street children.
2. To examine the patterns of delinquent behavior associated with street children.
3. To explain how the street children affect the level of security in sokoto metropolis.
4. To find out the possible solutions through which the street children could be reduced to a minimal level.

### **1.12 Significance Of The Study**

One of the most pronounced social problem in the media and related daily papers in Nigeria are security related problems such problems include frequent ethno-religious crisis in places like; Kaduna and Jos etc, the activities of members of movement for the emancipation of Niger-Delta (MEND) and the recent operations of jama'atul Ahlisunna Lidda'awati Waljihad (Boko-Haram) among others. The fervent to find the brand at which street children engages with those security challenges prompted the conduct of this research on the relationship between the street and security challenges in Sokoto metropolis.

- i. Looking at the current security challenges not only in Sokoto metropolis but Nigeria in general, the research project will help to spell out the security challenges that are particularly related to the street children and

- obviously spell out the risk involved in the escalating number of street children across the nation.
- ii. Knowing the kind of implications that are related to street children and the dangers in their increasing numbers would help the local, state and federal government in general and other related policy planners to design a policy and programs that would take into account of such problems.
  - iii. The research project will assist future researchers that may intend to carry out a relevant research on this related areas with information that are gained within their geographical locations or areas.

### **1.6 Scope Of The Research**

The research will cover the relationship between the increasing number of street children and the level at which their implication affect security in Sokoto metropolis. The study will specifically focus on the above problem in Sokoto metropolis which is the state capital of Sokoto state, Nigeria. The study will comprise both boys and girls between the age of eight to eighteen years that wonder about in the major streets, markets and even campuses in Sokoto metropolis as cited in the Wikipedia the free encyclopedia (2005). Sokoto is very a heterogeneous population, with an estimated population figure of 427,760 (2006 Census) the accurate number of the street children is yet to be known.

## **1.7 Operationalization Of Concepts**

**CHILDREN:** A child is a young person below the age of full physical development or below the age of maturity.

**STREET CHILDREN:** Children experiencing homelessness who live on the street of a city.

**SECURITY:** The degree of protection against danger, damage, loss and protection of life and property of people. Security is the degree of resistance to or protection from harm (ISECOM).

**SECURITY CHALLENGES:** The increasing level of criminality and the inability of the control agents protect the life and property of the people (Abdu, 2008). .

**JUVENILE DELIQUENCY:** This simply referred to the participation in illegal behavior by minor (i.e, individuals younger than the statutory age of majority).

## **CHAPTER TWO: Literature Review And Theoretical Frame Work**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter compasses of the review of existing literatures and theoretical frame work. The literatures that were reviewed were the work of researchers and organizations that have conducted empirical studies on areas related to street children, most importantly those studies that centered on the relationship between street children and insecurity. Thus, the chapter is categorized into two (2) sectors. The first section has to do with the review of existing literature that are relevant to the topic of study and the second section explains the theoretical framework that was applied in the research.

### **2.2 Conceptualizing Street Children**

Street children and their implications on security level is not a problem common to Nigeria, particularly, Sokoto, rather, it happen to be a global social problem though, mostly affecting the less developed countries of the world. All around the globe, several attempts by researchers were made to understand and explain where, why, and how street children constitute security problems in the world and also in finding ways through which the number of street children could be over sit. The review of such literature flows below:

#### **2.2.1 Who Are Street Children**

In this work, street children in Britain, Bretherton (2005), defines street children as those children (under the age

of 18) who lives and livelihood are primarily understood in terms of their relationship with the street. Bretherlon also argued that children are often characterized by loneliness on the street, shelterlessness, loss of contact and protection, love and care etc. they are mostly at risk of certain social problems such as harassment, hunger and trafficking. And they are also threat to societal stability as they engage in some forms of anti-social and delinquent behavior.

Fakoya (2009), Found two forms of street children exist in Nigeria: The children of the street, who work and live on the street and children in the street, who live and work on the street full or part-time but return back to their homes each night. According to Abdu (2008), although a number of the children roam about the street and markets with no reasonable thing doing, most the children engage in one or the other commercial activities as a means of their livelihood. The bulk of the children are from lower class or working class families and they are mostly children of slums and ghettos (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008).

### **2.3 Factors that leads to the increasing number of street children**

As any social phenomena, researchers have revealed multiple factors responsible for the rapid increase in the number of street children in Nigeria and some other places in the globe. For example, Nte, Eke and Igbamibo (2009) in their

studies, street children and the challenges on National Security: Evidence from Nigeria, reveal that, the ethno-religious crises, Natural disaster and the impact of HIV/AIDS have added to the quantity spring in the number of street children in Africa. Such phenomena, most often, lead to the death of one or both parent (Family breakdown). Consequently, the struggle for survival characterized the children (orphans). Some times they are forced to leave school and roam about the street to earn a living. In support of this agreement, Oha (2008) maintain that the numbers of children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS in Nigeria are about 700,000, which also increase the number of street children.

According to Sule-Kano (2008), initially, Traditional Qur'anic Schools (TQS) were not established mainly for the sake of begging the developing national economic crises which result in Family economic hardship (the poor condition of the school and in ability of the parent to support the children adequately) forcefully make the malams (Teachers 'OF Traditional Qur'anic Schools) and the students (Almajirai) to migrate to Urban centers in search for economic support (money and food). The Almajirai remain around the street, houses and market places in search for food and other activities to support their education and serve as a means of survival. In northern part of Nigeria, Sokoto in particular,

Almajirai contribute largely to the increasing number of street children.

Poverty and unemployment also contribute to the quantum leap of street children, parents who are unable to provide for their family the basic necessities of life have to predispose their children in activities on the street for their survival (Sudeh, 2008) also argued, children's school dropout, truancy and absenteeism are perpetuated by the rate of poverty and unemployment.

Similarly, Moore et,al (2009:4) believed that poverty of parents do affect children educational achievements. The Human Development Report Nigeria (2009: 64-65) explains the national poverty incidence in Nigeria which shows that poverty is more severe and above national average, in the northern part of Nigeria: apart from the rural poor which account to 65 percent of national poverty incidence, poverty has been consistently above national average in the three northern Zones, with north east zone recording the highest incidence. The central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigeria Bureau of statistics (NBS) Socio economic survey of 2006 and Nigerian Bureau of statistics core welfare indicator questionnaire survey of 2006 further confirm the poverty situation across regions and states. Children of poor neighborhood, where poverty and unemployment is common, loiter around the



street in the name of hawking and other commercial activities (Olutual ad Adesiji 2008).

According to Oha (2008), other related factors are marital problems or instability, insufficient parental care, Housing difficulties, and peer pressure etc, Oha (2008), further argues, that marital discord is a significant social problem for children, sometimes leading to problems in their health, emotions and other social activities. According Thornberry, Smith and Rivera (2007), Children raised in families disrupted by divorce or separation have greater chance of exhibiting problem behaviors, including delinquency, than children being raised by both parents. Because of insufficient parental care that is mostly associated with single parenting or broken families (including some poor families), less attention is giving to these children in terms of socialization and the provision of basic necessities (including Food and Cloth) For consumption. This implies that children who suffer from the consequences of marital problems are mostly prone to delinquent behavior and street loitering.

There is high magnitude of housing inadequacy in most urban centers in Nigeria (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008). Housing problems including inadequate facilities and building structures are common to most inner cities of urban areas. These tend to be among the leading factors that predispose certain individuals, including children, to the problem of

homelessness. Even when the structures are available, they tend to be unaffordable to lower class people due to the prevalence of economic hardship among them (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008). For this reason, those who cannot afford for themselves and their children have to, in most cases, allow the children to strive for their accommodation, consequently, leading to the increment in the number of children of the street (homelessness children).

#### **2.4 The Patterns Of Delinquent Behavior Associated With Street Children**

Hence the mass of these children are from neighborhood (poor) where the integrative and oversight mechanism (schools, family, religion centers etc) are weak and certain degree of crime and delinquency are normalized, they exhibit certain anti-social/delinquent behavior in the process of the normal life activities such as begging, hawking, bus conducting etc. the most common of these behavior is drug addiction.

According to Abdu (2008), most of them (street children) are exposed to hard drugs; they first begin with cigarette smoking and later spring to Indian hemp (marijuana) and other hard substances. The effects of drug most often influence them to exhibit more sophisticated delinquent behavior such as: Harassment, pick-picket, theft etc. Abdu (2008) also noted that, some of them (street children)are seen around the market as they pick pocket and harass people.

Majority of these children, through contact with thuggeries, are slowly socialized to becoming street hooligans (Yan daba) or “Area boys” as they are called in places like logos (Akinteye, wuye and Ashafa, 2004). Akinteye, wuye and Ashafa (2004) also argued that the area boys were believed to be the hardest instruments used by anybody seeking to start any civil disturbance; they are willing to throw the first stone or the first step in ethnic or religious riots, such riots comprises looting, maiming, destruction and killing. By implication therefore, street children are graduating to thugs that are used for political, ethnic and religious crises.

Truancy, school absenteeism and drop-out are argued by researchers (like Abdu, (2008) Sule- Kano (2008) Uwaje (2012) to be a form of delinquent behavior related with these children. As noted by Abdu (2008), such problems are common even among the Traditional Qur’anic School students (Almajirai) as they, sometimes move from their schools to other distanced places without the knowing of their Malams and parent as well. Among those associated with western education, researchers (such as Sule-Kano, (2008), Abdu, (2008) and Uwaje, (2012) also argued that the problem is unrestrained with the street children.

According to Uwaje (2012) statistics shows that about 70% of African street children are school dropout and 30% have never been to school which result to high rate of illiteracy

among them. Child prostitution and teenage pregnancy is common among female street children. Child prostitution consist of exchange of sexual services (by children) for economic rewards or for other forms of consideration such as food, housing, drug and by other commodities or intangibles like approval or care (Siegal and Welsh, 2005). Children prostitution relates with poverty, lower education alternative, joblessness and health problem (Bartollas, 2006). Many teenage girls living in extreme poverty turn to commercial sex as a means of income. According to Siege and welsh (2005), Girls may be pushed into life of sexual thoughtless or promiscuity because their sexual desirability (by man) makes them a valuable commodity for family living on the edge. They are coerced to sell their bodies because they have little else of value to trade. Many of these girls find themselves pregnant at a young age (teenage pregnancy) in the process of marking their body.

Child prostitution and teenage pregnancy, apart from being delinquent acts, also contribute to the menaces of street children. As argued by Bartollas (2006), when these girls become pregnant, the family reject them, they most therefore, be responsible not only for themselves, but also their children and with no one to support them. The children, when they grow older, become the children of the street (homelessness street children). Teenage hawkers particularly are most often

prone to such practices. Because of certain factors, such as poverty and illiteracy for example, they are sexually harassed by man, they accept their offers sometimes consensually while some other times by threatening them.

## **2.5 The Level at Which Street Children Affect Security In Sokoto**

The major security challenge in Nigeria is ethno-religious and political crises. Such crises have been experienced in many parts of Nigeria especially the Urban area. Currently, such crises are threatening the unity of the country. Many researchers (Like Akinteye, Wuye and Ashafa, (2004), and Albert, (2004) found that street children contribute largely to the increasing crises in Nigeria, sometimes they are even found to be the initial agents of such crises. Albert (2004) in a paper, Ethnic and Religious conflict in Kano, stressed that most of the riots in Kano would probably not have been as fatal as they were, if there had not been of street culture in the city. The Almajirai (Categories of street children) were fully used by ethnic chauvinist and religious fundamentalist to champion their causes. The children were invariably, present on the street looking for alms. As soon as there was any civil disorder, they simply ground the rioters, looting, maiming and making difficulties to any preventive action by the police.

In Similar finding, Akinteye, Wuye and Ashafa (2004) in their studies, Tafawa Balewa crises: a case study, argue that,

in all the crises in the local government (Tafawa Balewa) area so far, the youth were regarded as the instrument used to perpetuate the crises to the extent desired by elders. In some cases, the youth were used either to start or to take over crises the situations. At the end of each crisis, the youth thus formed the extreme percentage of causalities. Due to the presence of these children on the street, those who wanted to start evil disorder were Always assured of a mass crowd at the slightest signal of riot. According to Nte, Eke and Igbaniho (2009), The escalating Number of Street children increases the quality and quantity of the reservoir of potential ethno religious army, political thugs and in some cases, armed robbers. To them, street children do not constitute all these, rather, the social condition in which they exist socialize them into that.

According to Sudeh (2008), youth have been in the many ethno-communal conflicts that erupted in the recent years in Nigeria. Unemployment youth have been scripted into ethnic armies and militias such as Odua people congress (OPC), Movement for the Actualization of the sovereign state of Biafra (MASSOB), and Enugu Boys, among several others. The activities of these gang and groups pose serious threat to national security. The youths, as political thugs, have been used to formant electoral violence and as assassins to eliminate political opponents. From this, it can be inferred that the recent growth of Boko Haram is motivated by the

availability of unemployment youth and other categories of street children especially the almajirai.

## **2.6 Means Through Which Street Children Can Be Reduced**

Solution to the problem of street children must not be solely governmental as suggested by researchers including Omiyinka, Ben Akabweze (in Oha 2008), Olutuah, (2008) And Abdu, (2008) among others, the solution requires collective effort of different bodies that play interrelated and interdependent role in combating any social problem. To them, education can serve as the most useful mechanism in combating the problem. This is because, most of the children are illiterate with no basic skills to help them get proper jobs, education may help the children with skills that they can depend on for survival and substitute street loitering. On the other hand, non-governmental organizations should strive to complement governmental effort aimed at promoting child welfare through vocational training, counseling and job placement.

Ben Akabuweze in his paper presented at the GOTNI Leadership summit on November 25, (2006) Suggested steps that could help in taking the social menace constituted by the legion of the street children. His first suggestion was towards a value re-orientation in our social life. Ben Akubweze believe that in the presence of crushing identity crisis faced by Nigerian youths, occasioned by uncontrolled exposure to

western influences and its vices, Nigeria youths needs to engage in soul searching and need to develop the ability to imbibe only the positive aspects of foreign cultures. This, according to him, would lead to contentment and emphasize the traditional values of respect for elders/constitute authority, honesty, fairness and mutual accountability.

Additionally, Ben (2006) stressed on the need for inclusion of value re-orientation in the educational curriculum as part of the larger reform of our educational system which actually begs for a change and re-direction. Our current educational system is clearly designed to create an army of helpless youth who must seek employment in government or the private sector to make meaning out of their lives. He advocated for a free, qualitative and compulsory first nine years of educating in order to avoid creating a sharp divide in the society. He also touched on the significance of economic empowerment in the concept of job creation by the control government and the creation of an enabling environment for private enterprise to flourish.

Since poverty and unemployment are parts of the root causes of the street children, Sudeh (2008) argued government must tackle the problem of unemployment and poverty and invest greatly in development. To tackle poverty, there is need for vocational training for both the parent/guidance and the children as well, so that dependency on the street, child labor



and begging will be reduced so also the number of street children. Where education and vocational training available, Sudeh (2008) argues, government must create job opportunities for youth and establish enabling environment for private sector to thrive, as a result, job opportunities for the trained youth will be available

## **2.7 Consequences Of Street Children**

A handful studies (Osofisan, 1996, Jowette, Banks and Brown, 2001; Lynch 2005) have identified some consequences of street children. The finding suggests that apart from the strain that begging places on beggars factors impact negatively on their health and personality. Some of these include:

1. Exploitation of sexual Abuse: the dependency on public individuals and street by street children has its danger. One of such is that some of them have been identified as victims of HIV/AIDS (FGN/UNICEF) 1990). The chances of contracting aids and other sexually transmitted diseases are much higher for this set of people. The implication is that those in this business and the rest of the population are at risk. Since women and young girls are the most vulnerable, chances are that they end up with unplanned pregnancies, as seen in this case of most female street children and beggars in Nigeria.
2. Kidnapping and prostitution: trafficking in women and children in recent times is most distressing and in

- human, as a results of poverty. Many street children risk being kidnapped and forced into prostitution by individuals.
3. Crime and illegal drugs trade Shehu (1999) stated that street children are always in the risk of involving in crime and illegal drug trading, so as in a corresponding study, Adewale (2000), suggested that a large proportion of street children in the city of Lagos are involved in crime and drugs trade, because they are promise for a better life.
  4. Accident risk: street children could be risky to life especially in areas where there is heavy traffic. For instance Lagos children risk being run over by careless drivers. It is no unlikely that street children constitute a great percentage of corpses occasionally on the highways in Nigeria.
  5. Police harassment: in a countries where begging has been banned beggars risk imprisonment or a year, for first offenders or two years for a second or subsequent offence (Lynch, 2005). Many are also victims of police torture and brutality, particularly those who are tagged as 'rough sleep' (Forell, McCarron, and Schetzer, 2005).

## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical approach peculiar for this research paper is social disorganization theory. Which originates from the Chicago school of sociology. The core principle of social disorganization theory is the place matters. In other words a person's residential location is a substantial factor shaping the likelihood that that person will become involved in illegal activities. The theory suggests that among determinants of a person's later illegal activity, residential location is a significant as or more significant than the person's individual characteristics (e.g, gender or race). For example, the theory suggests that youths from disadvantaged neighborhoods participate in a subculture which approved of delinquency, and that these youth thus acquire criminality in this social and cultural setting (Kubrin and witzer, 2003).

According to Menna (2008), the main points of the social disorganization Theory focuses on the disproportionate amount of social and economic hardship as well as the level of criminality that occur in the inner cities, compared to other areas. Menna (2008) also argued, the constant in streaming of people and business (men) into the urban center combined with the highly transient environment and wide spread of poverty, lead to direct breakdown of families, schools and other social institutions that encourage conformity (social disorganization).

Larry Gaines and Roger Miller state in their book *Criminal Justice in Action* that “Crime is largely a product of unfavorable conditions in certain communities”. According to social disorganization theory, there are ecological factors that lead to high rates of crime in these communities, and these factors linked to constantly elevated levels of “high school dropouts, unemployment, deteriorating infrastructures, and single parent homes” (Gaines and Miller)

W.I Thomas and Florian Znamiecki’s, *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America (1918-1920)* introduced the idea that a person’s thinking processes and attitude are constructed by the interaction between that person’s situation and his or her behavior. Attitudes are not innate; rather they stem from process of Acculturation. Any proposed action will have social importance to an individual both because it relates to the objective situation within which the subject has to act, and because it has been shaped by attitude formed through a life time of social and cultural experiences.

In places with high degree of social disorganization, criminality and delinquency are more suitable than areas with high social cohesion. Disproportionate development in the cities with more social change and conflict result in the growth of poor and destructive neighborhoods (slums and ghettos) with high degree of social disorganization, characterized by individuals from a diversity of culture, who were structurally

segregated. In fact, poor neighborhood provides a conducive environment for deviant behavior, particularly delinquency, with time, this behavior becomes normalized among them (Olutuah and Adesiji, 2008).

The prevalence of street children on Nigerian streets, particularly, Sokoto metropolis, can also be explained in relation to the issue of urbanization in Sokoto. Sokoto, like any other urban center in the globe, is characterized by individuals with diverse cultural backgrounds who came to participate in diverse sphere of the state. Due to certain obstacles that disallows some individuals to participate actively in the affair of the state, those individuals were structurally coerced to live in the less developed area of the cities, where the integrative forces (school, families, religion centers and other related social institution) are weak. People, who live in such neighborhoods, suffer most from certain social problems such as: poverty, unemployment and illiteracy etc. which predisposed them to other deviant activities.

Most of the street children found in the major streets of Sokoto are children from poor neighborhoods, where certain criminal and delinquent behavior are normalized. The economic segregation against such children makes them imbibe on certain activities that will earn them a living on the streets. These activities include: begging, hawking, garbage collection and related activities. Due to influence of their neighborhoods,

the exhibit certain anti social behavior in the process, which consequently have tremendous implications on the level of security in the state.

## **CHAPTER THREE: Methodology**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter discusses in details the historical background of the study area and research design, and population of the study, sample size and procedure, method of data collection, instruments of data collection as well as the method of data analysis all comprised in the chapter.

### **3.2 Historical Background Of The Study Area**

Sokoto is a city located in the extreme north west of Nigeria, near the confluence of the Sokoto River and the Rima River. As of 2006 census it has a population of 427,760. Sokoto is the modern day capital of Sokoto state (and its predecessor, the northwestern state). The name Sokoto (which is the modern/anglicized version of the local name Sakkwato) is of Arabic origin, representing Suk, market'. It is also known as "Sakkwato Birnin Shehu da Bello" (Wikipedia 2014).

Being the Seat of the Caliphate, the city is predominantly Muslim and an important seat of Islamic learning in Nigeria. The Sultan who heads the caliphate is effectively the spiritual leader of Nigerian Muslims. Sokoto is in the dry Sahel surrounded by sandy Savannah and isolated hills. With an annual average temperature of 28.3<sup>0</sup>c (82.9<sup>0</sup>f), Sokoto is one of the hottest cities in the world. However the maximum day time temperatures are generally under 40<sup>0</sup>c (104.0<sup>0</sup>F) most of the year, and dryness make the heat bearable. The warmest

months are February to April where the day time temperature can exceed 45°C (113.0°F). The rainy season is from June to October, during which showers are a daily occurrence. But from late October to February during the cold season, the climate is dominated by the harmattan and wind blowing Sahara dust over the land. (Wikipedia 2014).

Sokoto had been used as early as October 1804 by the Shehu Usmanu Danfodiyo as the venue for the meeting with Galadima, Yunfa's vizier subsequently; it was used by Muhammad Bello as a staging post for an attack on Dufua in the spring of 1806. Bovil suggest that the area/district may have been known as Sokoto as early as the seventeenth century. In historical perspectives, Sokoto was founded as a ribat (military coup of frontier) in 1809, when Shehu usmanu was at Sifawa. It later becomes the capital of the caliphate after Shehu's death. The area of present Sokoto was the home of many empires and kingdoms of the pre-colonial western Sudan. These include the Gobir and Kebbi Kingdoms as well as the world renowned caliphate whose spiritual and political capital is the headquarters of the state (Wikipedia 2014).

Sokoto metropolis has thus been the capital of various governments since its establishment by Caliph Muhammad Bello in 1809. Sokoto has two major ethnic groups namely Hausa and Fulani with many other minorities tribal groups such as Sullubawa, Zoranmawa, Torankawa and Zabarmawa



e.t.c. Sokoto was one of the most peaceful, cosmopolitan and politically important cities in Nigeria which facilitate the influx of people from different parts of the country and beyond (Tunga, 2011). Tunga (2011) also argued, from the late 1990s Sokoto seems to have experienced past-electoral crises and religious violence such as Shi'a crises and violence that occur as a result of appointing Dasuki as Sultan of Sokoto 1988 by IBB (Wikipedia 2014).

### **3.3. Research Design**

In this research work descriptive research design method was employed. The aim of the research was to acquire quantitative information about the implications of street children on security in Sokoto metropolis. The research is designed to take place within the period of one year and the unit of analysis is the individuals.

### **3.4. Population Of The Study**

The targeted population of the research work were children between the age of seven (7) to seventeen (17), who do most of their activities on the street, full or part time (including Almajirai). Both girls and boys of these children characterized the population of the study.

**3.5: Sample Size And Procedure:** in this research, the total population was not be studied. The researcher segmented the population into manageable size (sample). As a result, out of the total population of the research, thirty (30) respondents

were selected as the sample of the population. To fulfill the research, four (4) security agents was also be selected as key informants. Two (2) of them were police officers, and the other two (2) from the Remand Homes (Prison Officers), where delinquent children are send for rehabilitation.

Purposive sampling method will be used in selecting the respondents from both the children and the security agents. Cluster sampling method will be used to divide the total population into five (5) different areas (Ahmadu Bello Way, Gidan Igwai, Iraqi, Sabuwar Kasuwa, Tsohuwar Kasuwa). After which, sampling was employed to select six (6) respondents from each area. Purposive sampling will also be used to select informant's respondent from security agents.

### **3.6: Method of Data Collection**

In the case of this research work, the primary data will be gathered through the use of focus group discussion (FGD) and key informant interview (KII) from the respondents (street children. To ensure homogeneity of the F.G.D respondents, the sample were divided into three (3) groups for the discussions, the first group consist of Almajirai, the second group consist of categories of street children (hawkers and alike), the final that is the third group consist female street children. And the key informant interview (KII) will be use to collect data from the security agents.

### **3.7: Instrument Of Data Collection**

The Instrument that were used in the process of data collection include the focus group discussion (FGD) and the key informant interview (KII).

#### **3.7.1. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

The focus group discussion is an instrument of data collection used in collecting qualitative data. The focus group discussion was organized to the streets children cut across the five areas. A total of (30) street children will be selected for the research and questions were asked and their responses will be recorded using tape recorder and was analyzed using content analysis.

#### **3.7.2 Key Informant Interview (KII)**

The key informant interview was organized to security agent who includes the police and prison officers. Their views and opinions were recorded and analyzed using content analysis.

### **3.8: Method of Data Analysis**

All collected data will be presented in a narrative form (prose style) and the analyses will follow using content analysis technique. The level of analysis was the individuals.

## **CHAPTER FOUR: Data Presentation, Analysis And Discussion**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter consists of data presentation analysis and discussion. Data presented in this study were basically in explanatory and narrative forms, the researcher employed Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KII) as methods of collecting data. The data gathered, using qualitative methods, were analyzed using content analysis.

The researcher intended to discuss with thirty (30) respondents from the study population (street children) and key informants. Due to the problems encountered in the course of data collection, the researcher was able to discuss with twenty nine respondents out of the initial thirty only two respondents (members of the police patrol Sokoto Central Team) were interviewed by the researcher, out of the initial of four. Therefore, presentation and analysis of data were based on the available data.

The data presentation was based on identified and coded appropriate labels on the notes that were taking during the FGD and the KII. The coding was based on the objectives of the research work and content analysis was based on scrutiny of transcripts of the FGDs and KIIs. The researcher discussed the responses and where necessary, complements some with relevant actual quotations made from the FGDs and KIIs.

## **4.2 Presentation of Data And Analysis**

The data collected were presented based on the responses of the participants to each of the objectives and themes of the research. The presentation and analysis follows.

### **4.2.1 Who Are Street Children**

The questions under this objective were based on the demographic characteristics of the street children. The central thrust of the theoretical frame of the research (Social Disorganization Theory) necessitates the analysis of 'who street children', based on their demographic characteristics. The demographic characteristic of the respondents have given us clues about who street children are, their age, socio-economic background, nature of their family setting and the kind of environment in which they are live. Data gathered under this objective were coded and categorized under four factors: Age, level of education, parents' marital status and area of residence.

- **Age**

Data gathered from the FDGs and KIIs show that most of the street children are in their early teen-ages and few are below the age of twelve. A respondent in KII mentioned:

...the street children are mostly children of twelve, thirteen years... most of them are not matured enough on differentiate right from wrong...

(KII at Police Patrol Sokoto Central Division Marina 2015).

This statement implies that most of the street children do not attained the age of maturity. Meaning, they are below the ages of eighteen.

- **Level Of Education**

From the study carried out, it has been noted that most of the children, with the exception of *Almajirai*, are junior secondary school students only few are in primary schools, the *Almajirai* have no formal education as they only focus on the informal Islamic education. A respondent in FGD argues:

... I have never been to any formal school; I was sent here only to study Qur'an and not Boko.

(FGD with *Almajirai* at Gidan Igwai 2015)

- **Parents' Occupation**

The parent's occupations of the street children tell us about the socio-economic background of their families. Data gathered from the FGDs and KIIs show that most of the street children are from low income families, their parents rely on petty trading, family and other manual labor for survival. Only few respondents admitted that their parent are government workers. A respondent in FGD in mentioned:

My father's occupation? ...he was a primary teacher.

(FGD with female street children Bello Way 2015)

In addition, a respondent in KII mentioned:

...honestly, children's loitering is mostly associated with poor families. If you see a child hawking, you'll hardly think he comes from a well-to-do family. In the case of Almajirai, as you can see, may be their parents cannot afford them formal education, they'll be taking to traditional Qur'anic schools and from there they do other things different.

(KII at Police patrol Sokoto Central Division Marina 2015).

This implies that majority of the children are children of lower class families who depend on minor commercial activities as means of livelihood.

- **Parents' Marital Status**

Parents' marital status gives us a clue about the family structure of the street children. Most of the data gathered from the FGD show that most of the respondents live together with their two parents, only a few respondents argued that live with step parents. A respondent in an FGD mentioned:

My mum was dead long ago; I am now living with my father's wives...

(FGD with female street children at Iraqi 2015)

On the part of *almajirai*, through most of them claimed that their parents are together, they live away from them.

A respondent in FGD revealed that:

...My parent are together, but they are there at home, I am here living with our "Malam".

(FGD with Almajirai Gidan Igwai 2015)

The responses gathered based on this theme show that marital breakdown is a minor determinant of street children as most of the respondents argued their parents are together and they live close to or with their family members.

- **Area of Resident**

Area of residence of the children show us the nature of localities and environment in which they live. Data gathered from FGD show that almost all the respondents live in ghetto areas of Sokoto metropolis. In the FGDs respondents pointed out places like Gidan Igwai, Bado, Iraqi, Kanwuri, Masallacin Shehu, Kato Bakwai, Fakon Idi, Bello way, Marina as their major areas of residences. Most of the areas mentioned are ghetto areas as against GRA and other influential residential areas.

#### **4.3 Factors Associated With The Escalating Number Of Street Children In Sokoto Metropolis**

A lot of factors were believed to be responsible for the increasing number of street children, the researcher, therefore, highlighted three issues under these objectives, factors that predispose children to the street, the major activities they engage in, and time they spend on the streets.



## **Factors that Predispose Children to the Street**

As previously discussed, street children are mostly of lower class families, who struggle on the street to cater for their need or even help in providing for their families as well. Therefore, poverty is said to be one of, if not, the major factor responsible for the increasing number of street children in Sokoto metropolis. Respondents in all the FGDs, conducted revealed that they engage in street activities as a means of sustenance and means through which they earn money to make of their schooling and sometimes, give some to their parents, especially their mothers. A respondent in FGD argued

I engage in Jari Bola (picking up broken bottles, Iron and empty bottles, especially perfume bottles)... I do spend it (the money) and pay my school dues as well.

(FGD with male street children Bello way 2015).

Another respondent in FGD also mentioned:

I do hawke Fura it was given to me by my mum to hawk and I take all the money to her, as I am not expected to spend even a Naira.

(FGD with female street children Gidan Igwai 2015).

From the above responses it was deduced that poverty is one of the factors that predispose children to the street.

Among other factors discussed in the FGDs that predispose children to the street is home or family hostility. Excessive punishment at home or in schools tend to

predispose children to the street, sometimes, at a slightest mistake, parent, elderly persons at home or even school teachers, tend to punish excessively, the children to the extent that a child feels aggressive and refuse to go back home or school and roams about the streets. The fear of being punished also delay children from going home. A respondent in FGD pointed out that:

When I do something, they do not even question why, why will start beating me... it mostly got me offended and I go with my friends instead of staying at home.

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015).

On the part of *Almajirai*, most of the respondents argued that no hostility in their schools, they only roam about the streets and markets to beg for food, money and other related items and go back to school thereafter. A respondent argued:

Our Mallam knows and nothing has been done to me by the Mallam that will make me aggressive to the extent of not going back to school.

(FGD with *Almajirai* at Gidan Igwai)

These responses revealed that, though the problem is not everywhere, excessive punishments, sometimes, provoke children to the extent that they refuse staying at home and loiter around the streets.

Sokoto is after referred to as seat of Caliphate this may be due to the history of Usmanu Danfodio Islamic Jihad. Sokoto metropolis, as argued the respondents in FGDs, has primary and secondary schools available to children but lack of available teachers and teaching facilities, especially in public schools make them to be irregular in schools and prefer to do other activities that will earn them money and abandon schools. A respondent in FGD argued:

...yes there are schools, but no enough teachers, only NYSC members, they will come, and they will spend weeks and go.

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015)

In addition, another respondent in FGD also revealed that:

Yes there are schools, no adequate teaching the teachers do come but they will sit aside and have discussions, sometimes, throughout the day, they will teach us nothing.

(FGD with female street children Gidan Igwai 2015)

These responses revealed that lack of adequate teaching, particularly in government schools, predispose children to other activities on the street.

Another major factor that was discussed, particularly in KIIs, was the issue of marital break down. When parents are not together, a lot of problems might arise and less attention may be giving to the children. This also makes them roam

about streets and other detrimental places. A respondent KII revealed that:

...Mostly, when marriage is dissolved you see her (the wife) saying she wants to go home with the children and you know mostly she is not doing any commercial activity... and she cannot take care of the children, you will see them following friends to struggle for survival.

(KII at police patrol Sokoto central Division, Marina 2015)

Another respondent in KII also pointed out that:

In a situation where parents are divorced, the father is not with the children or the mother and you know socialization begins at home, had it been the parents are together, they will socialize the children in such a way that they will not engage themselves in such activities.

(KII at police patrol Sokoto central division Marina 2015)

Although, most of the responses in FGDs revealed that marital breakdown is a minor determinant of street children, these responses clearly spelled out how marital breakdown becomes one of the factors that predispose children to the street, this is because, it results in poor socialization of children and predispose them to friends who might influence them in the long run.

- **The Major Activities of the Street Children**

Because most of the children depend on street activities for their survival, they often engage in activities that will earn

money or related material things. In the FGDs conducted, it was pointed out that most of the children engage in activities such as hawking, begging, garbage disposal and picking of remains and scrap object from the waste bins for sale (Jari-bola, as they are often called in Sokoto), though, begging is more common among the *Almajirai*. In the KIIs conducted, similar activities were also pointed out. A respondent in KII mentioned:

They engage in hawking groundnut, bread, pure water and other petty things that people buy and they go to restaurants to wait for remains food and there are some among them that go to waste bins and pick up something for sale, we call them jari-bola.

(KII at police patrol Sokoto central Division Marina 2015)

This response comprehensively pointed out the major activities that street children engage in and these activities are normal day-to-day activities they do on the street.

- **Time they Spend on the Streets**

The amount of time these children spend on the street varies, this is due to the fact that some of them go to school in the morning and come back in the afternoon and vice versa, while some of them rarely even go to school.

The activities they do also varies in terms of time requirement and, consequently, makes some to stay longer on

the street than others. A respondent in the FGD who claimed that she sales pure water argued that:

I spend mostly three to four hours.

(FGD with female street children Gidan Igwai 2015)

Another respondent who claimed he engage in Jari-bola argued that:

I start from morning; I mostly reach up to 2pm.

(FGD with male street children Iraqi 2015)

Despite variety of responses, it was deduced from the responses in FGDs that the children often stay long on the street and mostly spend not less than two hour per day. In addition respondent in KII pointed out that:

Some will come out as early as possible and some even sleep outside, mostly they stay long. Though, sometimes, when some of them are going you will see others coming.

(KII at polis Patrol S/central Division Marina 2015)

From this response it is evident that, though they mostly stay long on the street, the time they spend on the streets varies.

#### **4.4 Patterns of Delinquent Behavior (S) Associated With Street Children**

Apart from the normal activities the street children engage in, which they depend upon for survival, some of them were often found exhibiting certain delinquent behaviors,

either on the streets or in other selected areas. The researcher highlighted two issues under this objective. Delinquent behavior associated to street children and area that the delinquent behaviors are manifested.

- **The Delinquent Behavior(S) Associated With Street Children**

Most of the delinquent behaviors that were identified in the FGDs were argued by the respondents to be common among street children. Though, in the FGDs, the respondents argued that they see delinquency common to most children but most of the respondents argued that they do not engage in the delinquent activities while some of them pretended that they did it but only in the past. A respondent in FGD argued:

If your send a child whom you do not know, with money once he realizes he is out of sight, he will run with the money... I have never done it.

(FGD with male street children at Bello Way 2015)

Among the male street children, including the *Almajirai*, smoking is common. Most of the respondents that engage in waste disposal or Jari-bola admitted they engage on smoking, particularly *Buke* (a plant that grow in farms, waste bin and garden (*Lanbu*) and/or remains of cigarette. Sometimes, smoking is very minimal as no respondent admitted smoking

or seen female child who smokes. A respondent in FGD maintained that:

...in the past I smoke buke and if someone throw away cigarette I pick it and smoke... we call the buke maganin sanyin kashi... I am no longer smoking cigarette but I smoke buke up to date.

(FGD with male street children at Iraqi 2015)

In addition, a respondent in KII maintained:

Sometimes, they start from come and buy me this and this, and the moment he brought it, he will be observing what you do and if you throw away the remains, he will pick it and try.

(KII at police patrol S/Central Division Marina 2015)

From the above responses, it was deduced that the act of smoking is common among street children, but usage of hard substances is vary minimal among them.

Bullying, stealing and seizure of properties are other forms of delinquent behavior found among street children. They Bull, steal and seize things from co-street children and other people as well. Among the *almajirai*, the elderly ones bull the younger ones to the extent of seizing what they begged for. A respondent in FGD argued:

If we were given food with another person who is stronger, he will seize it... I have never done it because if you do not want something, do not do it unto others.



(FGD with almajirai at Tshuwar Kasuwa 2015)

Another respondent in FGD also argued:

If someone is hawking he must be careful with his things, otherwise, it will be stolen by other hawkers... if they take my own, I will try to take from someone to cover it.

(FGD with female street children at Gidan Igwai 2015)

These responses show how bullying, stealing and seizure are being practiced among street children. Because these children do most of their activities on the streets and markets, other people, including traders, fall victims of such acts. A respondent in FGD pointed:

...they pretend they want to buy things and if they realized that there are too much customers, they will take that advantages and steal.

(FGD with male street children at Tsohuwar Kasuwa 2015)

Sexual practices were also mentioned to be found among female street children and some male. In the course of their normal activities, hawking in particular, the female street children do flirt with their male counterparts. From the exchange of flirty words, some of them engage in sexual practices.

A respondent in KII revealed that:

When a girl is hawking sometimes she meets guys ...thuggish one will pick up her thing,

another will do, and from there, there expose her to bad activities.

(KII at police patrol S/central Division Marina 2015)

In addition, a respondent FGD argued:

Sincerely, if my things are almost finished, I have someone that buys the remaining ones... sometimes I spend time with him, but I never allow him (sex) only rough play...

(FGD with female street children Gidan Igwai 2015)

Among the male street children most of the respondent argued that they have never harassed any girl, whether on the street or elsewhere. Although they argued that some children, especially the elderly ones, do. Only one respondent admitted he has ever harassed a girl and refuse to explain.

... yes I did it once... I cannot explain gaskiya...

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015)

Truancy is often found among the street children due to the fact that in all the FGDs conducted, most of the respondents argued that the schools environment are not favorable to them because there are no adequate teachers and other learning facilities which make them to appreciate other street activities that earn them money and abandon schools. A respondent in FGD argued:

I do not stay in school, from break I do not o back (to class)

(FGD with male street children at Gidan Igwai 2015)

Despite truancy common among street children, the *Almajirai* respondents in FGD argued that truancy is very minimal as none of them admitted being a truant. In contrast, a respondent in KII argued:

The issue of truancy is common among these children; as you can see some of them even loiter around the streets with their uniforms during school hours, ...including the *almajirai* some times they spend days without going back to their Mallams.

(KII at police patrol S/Central division Marina 2015)

These responses revealed that truancy is found among *Almajirai*, though it is minimal compared to the non-*almajiri* street children.

- **Areas of Manifestation of Street Children's Delinquent Behaviors**

Because delinquent behavior are behaviors that most people frown at, the street children, though sometimes they do it openly, have certain areas for their delinquent activities. Most of these places are places that have less concentration of people or places where thuggery acts are exhibited, such places include garage uncompleted building and football fields etc. a respondent in KII pointed out that:

They exhibit such behavior in garage area, along the bridge and where they often take the waste bin (waste disposal points) for sale.

(KII at police patrol S/Central Division Marina 2015)

In the FGDs, places like *Lambu* (Garden), uncompleted buildings, waste disposal points, football fields, particularly Fakon Idi were mentioned as the major points of children's delinquent acts. A respondent in FDG who admitted that he smokes *buke*, when asked, where do you mostly do it? He replied:

‘Chicago’ (an uncompleted building that people use for waste disposal).

(FGD with male street children at Tsohuwar Kasuwa 2015)

On the other hand, some delinquent behaviors are exhibited right on the streets. Among the Almajirai, seizure of food argued to be manifested on the street or various beginning points. A respondent in FDG argued:

...seizure of food is mostly done at the begging points.

(FGD with Almajirai Gidan Igwai 2015)

#### **4.4 The Level At Which Street Children Affect Security In Sokoto Metropolis**

Street children are said to contribute to security challenges, particularly in respect to religious and political crises in Sokoto Metropolis. This objective has three themes; level of children's participation in crises and political rallies (which sometime end up in violence); their major role in the crises and the level of children's victimization.

- **Level of Children's Participation in Crises and Political Rallies**

Street children are often seen to either initiate or facilitate social uprising, particularly religious and political crises. In the FGDs and KIIs that were conducted, respondents revealed that though the children participate in the crisis, the level of participation is higher among male street children than female and *Almajirai*. A male respondent in FGD revealed that:

I participated in the post electoral violence (in 2011), they broke shops... I did not break any shop, they broke it and I entered and pick up drinks.. wallahi children were killed.

(FDG with male street children at Sabuwar Kasuwa 2015)

In addition, a respondent in KII also revealed that:

If such crises arise, you know we experience that of politics and religion ...many crises happened in Sokoto sometimes if they see men carrying weapon, they take sticks and stones when they realized who their men are attacking, they try to help their men.

(KII at police patrol S/Central Division Marina 2015)

These responses clearly show how street children participate in ethno-religious and political crises in Sokoto Metropolis. In the FGD conducted with *Almajirai*, most of the respondents argued they had never participated though, a few of them admitted that they once participated. One of the respondents in the FGD mentioned that:

I participated only once, the one that happened in Sokoto during uprising of Shi'a, we did not kill but we beat them.

(FGD with Almajirai Iraqi 2015)

Although the *Almajirai* participate, responses from the FGD revealed that their participation is minimal. Female on their part, participate less in such crises. In the FGD conducted with female, though some of them argued that at least one incidence met them on the streets, respondents argued that they never participate. A respondent in FDG argued:

The last crises started when I was at Kanwuri I was confused and I abandoned my commodities and rushed home... I did not come out until some days after.

(FGD with female street children Gidan Igwai 2015)

Street children also participate in political rallies which were argued sometimes to lead to political crises. A respondent in KII revealed that:

...They engage in shouting some slogans and in that process, opposition parties may meet one another... with this, conflict may arise...

(KII at police patrol S/Central Division Marina 2015)

Despite this claim, though the respondent in FGDs admitted participation, none of them admitted that the rallies often end up in crises or conflict.

Participation in political rallies across gender as not the male or *Almajirai* respondents admitted it but also the female respondents. A female respondent in FGD argued:

...if in see them moving towards my destination, I sometimes follow them.

(FGD with Female street children at Gidan Igwai 2015)

Political rallies are sometimes motivated by what the politicians give to the children hand to hand or by throwing up to them some things such as sweet and chewing-gum in the process. One of the respondents in FGD revealed that:

We only follow around and shout... they never pay us; they only throw chewing gum for us in the process.

(FGD with male street children Sabuwar Kasuwa 2015)

Political rallies, even if they do not end in violence, threatens the level of security, because children are displaying anti-social behavior in the process of rallies.

- **The Major Roles of Children in Crises and Political Rallies**

The role of street children in the political rallies and conflict situations is not same with that of adult, due to the fact that the children are weak to carry out something. Although these children participate in crises, they hardly engage in killings but they sometimes loot, vandalize

properties and injure people from other party(s). A respondent in KII argued that:

...though, they are not the actual originators of the crises, but they follow the crown in the course of the crises. You see them carrying machetes and sticks in a situation where a shop or house is broken, you mostly find that they are the ones to take things from the broken shops.

(KII at police patrol S/central division Marina 2015)

Another respondent in KII revealed that:

They are far beyond mere following crowd if they are holding these sticks and meet someone who is weak or unarmed... if they succeeded in stoning him, they can finish him and from their they contribute in killing people.

(KII police S/Central division Marina 2015)

These responses revealed the kind of instrument that the children use in conflict situations, which are mostly sticks and stones. From this, it was inferred that street children rarely engaged in killing but they loot and mine people of other party. In all the FDGs conducted, none of the respondents admitted that he ever killed or know any child who killed in any crises or political rallies, but some of them admitted looting and vandalization of properties. A respondent in FGD argued:



I joined them, I did slash anyone, in fact I did nothing only that if they break shop I will enter and carry things and bring home...

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015)

From these responses, it inferred that involvement of children in any social uprising adds to the number of rioters and consequently facilitate the level of material damages in the crises.

- **The Level Children's Victimization**

Because of participation of children in social uprisings, many children were victimized in the process. The victimization could be injuries inflicted on them or death of the children because participation is higher among male street children, the level of victimization was also found to be higher among them. In FGDs conducted with male street children, almost all the respondents revealed that children were killed during the social upheavals. A male respondent, who admitted participation in 2011 post electoral crises in Sokoto mentioned that:

Wallahi children were killed and they were many.

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015).

Even among those who claimed they have never participated in any social uprising including *Almajirai* and female respondents argued that children were seriously

victimized in the situation. A female respondent in FGD argued that:

I have never participated...I know someone who sustained cutlass injury in Unguwan Iraqi and I know two that were killed in Unguwan-Kanawa, all during post electoral violence of 2011.

(FGD with female street children Iraqi 2015)

In addition, a respondent in KII also revealed that:

It is very dangerous to them, because sometimes if there were gunshots, it does not only hit the adult, it was well hit the children... they face too much danger of cutlass cut, or if any object is thrown, it might hit the child.

(KII at police patrol in S/Central division Marina 2015).

Based on these responses it is deduced that children who participate in social uprisings predispose themselves to danger of being injured or death.

Despite the involvement of children in social uprisings and prevalence of some delinquent behaviors among them, respondents in both FGDs and KIIs revealed that relationship between street children and security agents is two sides; sometimes especially in normal situation the relationship is cordial while some other times, especially when these children are exhibiting anti-social behavior, the relationship is otherwise. A respondent in KII argued that:

The relationship between security operatives and those children is two sided coin issue, because, on one hand, these are children that sale groundnut, water on the street and sometimes we often buy those things from them. On the other way round, they see us as threat especially when they happened to be in such areas that are not welcomed by security.

(KII at police patrol S/Central division Marina 2015)

#### **4.6 How Street Children Could Be Reduced**

Under this objective, what should be done to reduce the number of street children were discussed at three levels, at the family level at the community level and also, at the government level.

- **At the Family Level**

At the family level, a lot were argued to be done to children when will immensely reduce the number of the street children. For instance, in the FDGs conducted with the street children, it was found that some families rely on these children for survival as they predispose them to hawking even when it is against the children's wish. Therefore, it was argued that if reliance on children will be reduced, the number of street children will also reduce. A respondent in FGD revealed that:

If they (parents) will stop sending me to hawk, I see no reason coming down to this place every day.

(FGD with female street children at Bello way 2015)

Another respondent in FGD also argued:

If my needs will be satisfied and my school dues will be settled, then I will stop roaming about...

(FGD with male street children Sabuwar kasuwa 2015)

These responses imply that the family members should not only reduce reliance on the children but also take care of their basic needs. This is because, respondents in the FGDs argued that they have to be in the markets and streets to earn a living. On the part of the *Almajirai*, most of the respondents revealed that the only thing that can stop them from roaming about streets is that their parents should take them back home, because nobody gives them food until they beg for it. A respondent in FGD with *Almajirai* point out that:

When they take me back home and I stop coming to makaranta Allo (Traditional Islamic schools) that is when I will stop loitering or begging.

(FGD with *Almajirai* Gidan Igwai 2015)

In addition, responses in KII revealed that if the level of marital breakdown or single parenting will be reduced the quantity of street children will also reduce. A respondent in KII argued.

...had it they (Parents) are together, such things would not have been happening... there

has to be united family so that the children will grow up under the supervision of their parent, as such they not engage themselves in street loitering.

(KII at police patrol S/Central division Marina 2015)

- **At the Community Level**

Most of the responsibilities of the community in reducing the number of street children centered on the activities of non-governmental organizational (NGOs). Almost all the respondents in the FGDs and KIIs revealed that if NGOs will provide skill acquisition centers for these children and enlighten the children as well as their parent about the importance of skill acquisition, the quantity of street children will be reduced. A respondent in FGD argued:

If they will establish skill acquisition centers, such as tailoring, welder or carpentry, I will join...

(FGD with male street children at Tsohuwar kasuwa 2015)

A female respondent also mentioned:

...some of my friends are now in tailoring centers as apprentice, if I will have that opportunity, I will stop hawking and join because it will help me even when I got married.

(FGD with female street children at Bello way 2015)

Skill acquisition will make the children to concentrate in one place and in the long run, train some children that if

otherwise allowed, will and add to the number of street children. In addition, a respondent in KII also revealed:

The activities of NGOs will be of very important in minimizing the issue of street children. Because the establishment of skill acquisition programs will help them to develop skills and it will help them to engage in activities that will help in sustaining their lives, instead of engaging in some delinquent activities.

(KII at police patrol S/Central division Marina 2015)

- **At the Government Level**

It has been argued in the FGDs and KII that if government would provide adequate and favorable schooling facilities, provides employment opportunities and develop some welfare programs for the poor, the number of street children will drastically reduce this due to the fact that most of the respondent in FGDs argued to be truants or drop-outs as a result of inadequate facilities and teachers in their schools.

A respondent in KII argued that:

...by providing adequate school facilities especially boarding schools where those children will be confined in one place, with adequate teachers... and when a boy graduate, the government should assist him at least to be self employed with these street children will be reduced.

(KII at police patrol S/Central division Marina 2015)

In addition, a male respondent in FGD also mentioned:

The government should establish industries and schools that provide standard education, because illiteracy facilitates the issue of hawking.

(FGD with male street children at Bello way 2015)

These responses especially the second response, revealed that apart from improving the standard of education, employment opportunities are also needed because poverty and unemployment lead to increase in the number of street children.

Welfare programs will also help in reducing the number of street children because the government will take care of some of needs of the less privileged. A respondent in FDG revealed that:

If they want us to stop begging the government should help us with food and other basic requirements...

(FGD with Almajirai at sabuwar kasuwa 2015)

By implication therefore, if the government will design and implement welfare policies, the number of street children will reduce due to the fact that parent will reduce reliance on the children and needs of the children, that predispose them to the street, will be satisfied at least to a certain level.

#### **4.7 Discussion of Major Findings**

The general finding of the research work is that street children add to the complexity of security challenges in sokoto

Metropolis by involving in delinquent activities and social uprisings which are threat to the administration of security.

The research consists of four (4) specific objectives and a theme that discusses who the street children are, base on socio-demographic characteristic. Each of the objectives was addressed in the course of generating relevant data and the analysis of the data. Based on the discussion and interviews conducted, the researcher found the following:

Based on the socio-demographic data of the respondent, the study shows that most of the children found on the street and markets are children between the age of seven (7) and seventeen (17). Almost all the children come from poor families and live in poor neighborhoods (slums and ghettos) of Sokoto metropolis. Such neighborhoods include: Gidan Igwai, Iraqi, Kanwuri, Guiwa and Bado etc. This corresponded with the main thrust of social Disorganization Theory which argues that children of poor neighborhoods, where integrative forces are weak and poverty prevails, are likely to loiter around the street and display certain delinquent behaviors on the streets. The research also found that the bulk of the street children are not from broken homes. This is likely as a result of poverty and unemployment that characterized families which often make the family members to send their children to the commercial activities even when the family is stable.



As found in the research, the leading factor that is responsible for the escalating number of street children is poverty. Most often, poverty forcefully make parent to allow or send their children to the street and other centers for hawking and other simple commercial activities. Similarly, it was also found that unemployed and/or under-employed parents also find it difficult to provide for the family and consequently predispose the children to the street. Also, lack of learning facilities and school teachers make the children to abandon schools and roam about the streets for commercial activities. This corresponds with the findings of sudeh (2008), which also found poverty and unemployment to be major factors that increase the number of street children hostility and peer influence also play a role but they were not discussed in the reviewed literatures.

The research found that most of the street children engage in smoking. They have specific cigarette for children which they called "*buke*". Apart from smoking *buke*, they also smoke remains of cigarette. Although most of the children do not use hard substance, smoking was found to introduce them to the use of hard substances. This may be the reason why of Abdu (2008) argued that substance abuse is common among the street children. Fighting, theft and truancy are also common to both female and male street children whereas, bullying is found more common among the male street

children, which is likely due to the fact that the male street children are stronger and they internalized delinquent tendencies than other categories of street children. Among the male street children, sexual harassment is minimal but 'street prostitution' is found to exist among female street children, particularly, the more elderly ones among them. This corresponds with the findings of Siegel and Walsh (2008), which sees child prostitution and teenage pregnancy to be common among female street children. This might be due to the fact that the female street children experience more sexual harassment than their male counterpart. Sometimes they cooperate because of some material benefits while some other times it is based on coercion.

Street children were found to affect security administration to a great extent. The research found that the children do involve in political activities including rallies which often end up violence. In line with the findings of Albert (2004) and that of Akinteye, Wuye and Ashafa (2004), the research also found that street children, in most cases, are not the initiators of crises that were witnessed in Sokoto Metropolis, but rather, they happened to be active participants in the crises. As a result, their involvement increases the rate of material and human damages. Because of the high rate of the involvement of male street children in political rallies and social uprisings, male street children were found to be more

victimized than other categories of street , during rallies and/or ethno-religious crises.

In trying to reduce the number of street children, the research found that if reliance on children as a source of family earnings will be reduced, the level of street children will also reduce. This was not discussed in the reviewed literature of other schools. The research also found that the work of NGOs is of significant importance in reducing the number of street children. By establishing skill acquisition centers, the children will focus more skill acquisition and abandon street life. At the government level, if government will revive and fully implement policies and programs regarding education, poverty reduction and other related welfare programs, street children will be nowhere to be found. Similar findings were discussed in the works of Abdu (2008) Olutuah (2008) and Sudeh (2008), which also argued that reduction in poverty and unemployment will result in the reduction of street children.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: Summary Conclusion And Recommendations**

### **5.1 Introduction**

The research was designed to study the implication of street children on security in Sokoto Metropolis, the purpose of any empirical research, such as this, it is to provide the basis for purposeful policy formulation ad implementation. Hence, this chapter is divided into three (3) sections, the first section is the summary of the chapters of the research project, the second section is the conclusion of the study and the last section constitutes the recommendations which were made based on the findings of the study.

### **5.2 Summary**

The study, like most research work, was structured into five (5) chapters (this inclusive). The first chapter discusses: the background of the study (general introduction), statement of the problem, questions and objectives of the study, relevance of the study, scope and the limitation of the study and lastly the operationalization of concepts.

The second chapter consists of the review of related literature and theoretical frame work. In the chapter, works of different scholars regarding the topic and their possible shortcomings were identified. The theory which serves as the framework of the research as well as its applicability in the work was also discussed in the chapter.

The third chapter deals with the historical background of the study area and the research methodology which include research design, population of the study, sample size and procedure, methods of data collection, research instruments, of data analysis, and the problems encountered in the course of data collection.

The fourth chapter consists of data presentation, analysis and the discussion of findings of the study. In the chapter, the various data collected were carefully analyzed and related to previous findings of other scholars. Implications of some of the findings were also discussed in the chapter.

Lastly, the fifth chapter consists of summary, conclusion and recommendations. The summary of the entire work has been discussed in the chapter so also the conclusion. Based on the findings of the of the research work the researcher recommended certain solutions which were all discussed in the chapter.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The problem of street children is being perpetuated by many factors, among which include: poverty, unemployment and peer pressure, like any human being, children need certain resources for their survival, and sometimes the resources are often less provided by their parents, especially, the poor and/or unemployment parents. As a result, the children find themselves roaming about streets and markets,

hawking or engaging in activities that would earn them a living (money). To sum it all, the increasing level of poverty and unemployment often result in the increase in the number of street children in Sokoto Metropolis.

Because the bulk of the children came from poor neighborhoods where criminality and delinquency is frequent and tend to be normalized among them and they are exposed to certain places (like garage and motor parks) where thuggery life is the norm, they exhibit a variety of delinquent behaviors either on the streets, markets or in some hidden areas which are suitable for delinquent acts.

During any social uprising, particularly political and ethno-religious arises, street children were found to be participating in one or the other activities that facilitate the crises and increase the rate of maternal and human damages. If the problem of street children will be remained unresolved by the community or governments, there is likelihood that they will, in the long run, join more sophisticated militia groups such as *Boko-Haram* and, consequently, complicate the existing security challenges in Nigeria, particularly Sokoto metropolis.

In trying to reduce the number of street children, the research found that if reliance on children as a source of family earning will be reduced, the level of street children will also reduce. The work of NGOs is of significant important in

reducing the number of street children, this can be done by establishing skills acquisition centers, where these children will learn and be trained on how to depend on themselves and abandoned street loitering. Also if the government will revive and fully implement policies and programs regarding education, poverty reduction and other related welfare programs the street roaming will be reduce.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

In view of the research findings, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. Parent should watch over the affairs of their children; what they do, where they go and the kind of friends they mingle with so as to reduce the tendencies of bad influence of friends.
2. Skill acquisition centers should be established either by the NGO.s or the government so that children will be trained into different occupations which will make them to be self employed. To this end, the skilled children will, in the long-run, train younger ones into such occupations, as result reliance on the street activities will be minimized among children.
3. Government should pay emphasis in providing employment opportunities for both parents and the skilled or trained children so that reliance on street activities will be reduced. In line with this, the

- government should also revive and implement policies regarding poverty reduction and welfare programs so that degree of poverty and the problems of unemployment will be reduced, so also the street children.
4. Government should also improve the standard of primary and secondary schools, particularly public schools, so that children will spend more time in schools and minimize the amount of time they require or spend in street activities.
  5. Welfare programs for the *Almajiri* should be put in place by the government and skill acquisition centers should also be provided for the *Almajiri*. This will minimize the level of dependency on the streets and markets for begging.
  6. Parents should try to consider their ability in sustaining themselves as well as their children before given birth to too many children. This is because, given birth to too many children without taking care of their basic life necessities will make the children to struggle and provide it for themselves at all cost.



## REFERENCES

- Abdu, H. (2008). Urban Dynamic, Ethno-religious Crises and Youth Violence in Kaduna: Department of Political Science and Defense Studies, Nigeria Defense Academy retrieved from: [hussainiabdu.infor/mydocs/urban%20dynamics,%20ethno-religious%20conflict%20urban%20youth%20.20v.o.pdf](http://hussainiabdu.infor/mydocs/urban%20dynamics,%20ethno-religious%20conflict%20urban%20youth%20.20v.o.pdf) accessed 13-04-2012.
- Akinteye, A., Wuye, J.M. and Ashafa, M.N. (2004). Tafawa Balewa Crises: A Case Study in Otite, O. and Albert, I.O. (editors). Community Conflict in Nigeria. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.
- Albert, I.O. (2004). Ethnoreligious Conflict in Kano. In Otite, O. and Albert, I.O. (editors). Community Conflict in Nigeria. Ibadan: Spectrum Books Limited.
- Bartollas, C. (2006). Juvenile Delinquency, New York: person and AB Publishers.
- Bretherton, C. (2005). Street Children in Britain. Retrieved from: [www.fairplayforchildren.org/pdf/1299575094.pdf](http://www.fairplayforchildren.org/pdf/1299575094.pdf) accessed: 13-04-2012.
- En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child. Accessed: 18-04-2012
- En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sokoto. Accessed: 13-04-2012
- En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security. Accessed: 30-04-2012
- En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social-Disorganization-Theory. Accessed: 13-04-2012

- Fakoya, O. (2009). The Street Children of Nigeria. In Nigerian Village Square. Retrieved from: <http://www.nigeriavillages.com/article/dr-olusegun-fakoya/the-street-children-of-nigeria-13-htm>. Accessed: 17-04-2012.
- Menna, M. (2008). An Overview of the Chicago School Theories of Criminology. Retrieved from [voice.yahoo.com/an-overview-of-the-chicago-school-theories-of-criminology-1472027.html](http://voice.yahoo.com/an-overview-of-the-chicago-school-theories-of-criminology-1472027.html), Accessed: 02-05-2012.
- Nte, N.D., Eke, P., and Igbaniho, S.T. (2009). Street Children and the Challenges of National Security: Evidence from Nigeria, Bangladesh: e-journal of Sociology. Vol. 6.
- Oha, O. (2008). The Street Children of Nigeria. In Nigeria Village Square. Retrieved from: [www.codewit.com/Africa/Africa/363-the-street-children-of-nigeria](http://www.codewit.com/Africa/Africa/363-the-street-children-of-nigeria). Accessed: 16-02-2014
- Olutuah, A.O. and Adesiji, O.S. (2008). Housing Poverty, Slum Formation and Deviant Behavior. Department of Architecture, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria.
- Reeves, A. (2011). Prevalence, Abuse and Exploitation of Street Children in the Early Years of 21<sup>st</sup> Century – 2000 to 2010. Retrieved from: [gvnet.com/streetchildren/USA.htm](http://gvnet.com/streetchildren/USA.htm). accessed: 13-04-2012.
- Salim, A. and Olisemeka, C.F. (2011). Gender Need Assessment for Kaduna Metropolis, Nigeria. MCI Social Sector: Working Paper Series N22/2011. Retrieved from:

<http://mei.ei.columbia.edu>. Accessed on 02-09-2012.

Selva, M. (2004). Africa's Children of War. Counter Current. Retrieved from: <http://www.countercurrents.org/hr-sela131104.htm>. Accessed: 18-04-2012.

Siegel, J.L. and Welsh, A.H. (2005). Juvenile Delinquency. USA: Thomson Wadsworth Publishers.

Sudeh, C. (2008). Youth Unemployment and Poverty in Nigeria: Implications for National Security. A Paper Presented at the International Conference on Nigerian Youth, Political Science, Political Participation and National Development. Bayero University, Kano.

Sule-Kano, A. (2008). Poverty and the Traditional Qur'anic School System in Nigeria the Politics of the Almajiri Phenomenon. A Paper Prepared for the Conference on Nigeria Youth and National Development. Bayero University, Kano.

Thornberry, T.P., Smith, C.A. and Rivera, C. (2007). Family Disruption and Delinquency. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Tunga, L. (2011). An Assessment of Post Electoral Violence that Erupted Kaduna and Some Northern States of Nigeria. Elamboh: A Nigeria Perspective on World Affairs.

Uwaje, M. (2012). Street Children, Education and National Security. The Rock-Feller Foundation. Retrieved from: <http://futurechallenges.com/local/street->

[children-national-security](#). Accessed on 30-04-2012.

## **APPENDIX I:**

### **F.G.D Guide for Street Children**

Dear respondents, I am a final year student with the Department of Sociology, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Undertaking a research on the topic “**Street Children and Their Implication in Sokoto Metropolis**”. I would like you to respond to the following questions, your responses and views will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

1. Who are street children

Probe: Age, gender, parent’s occupation, parent’s marital status, area of residence.

2. Factor associated with the increasing number of street children.

- a. What are the major activities that predispose you to street?

Probe for: Forms of the activities, time they spent on the street and places they mostly cover.

- b. Do you live with your family?

Probe for: Level of contact with family members, knowledge of children day to day activities, level of satisfying children’s physiological needs (for Almajirai, level of contact with Malams, are they harsh or hostile to you?

- c. Is there any school in your community?

Probe for: Access to the schools, the quality of education giving by the school and problems you encounter concerning education.

d. Do you have friends

Probe for: types of friends, nature of relationship with friends and their influence concerning schools and street activities.

3. Patterns of delinquent behaviors associated with street children.

a. What forms of delinquent behaviors commonly find to street children.

Probe for: type, magnitude at which it occurs and places of manifestation.

b. What types do you engage in?

c. Did you engage in any drug addiction?

Probe for: type of drug, availability, accessibility and places of consumption.

d. Do you engage in sexual harassment (for female)

Probe for: how often, where it happen and incidence of rape

e. How do you carry out your street activities with schooling?

Probe for: absorption, truancy, drop-out,

f. When you are unable to meet your demand, what are the probable alternatives?

Probe for: Theft, pick-pocket or related practices.

4. The level at which the street children affect security in Sokoto metropolis.

a. How many time have experience any social upheaval or crises in Sokoto metropolis?

b. What are the common crises you engage in.

Probe for: reason for participation, friends involvement, the major you play in such crises and level of children's victimization.

c. Were you ever sponsored by any individual, group, organization to start any civil disorder?

d. How many times do you attend political rallies?

Probe for: sponsored, materials used in the political rallies, and level of children's involvement.

e. How is your relationship with security personal?

5. Solution to the increasing number of street children.

In your own opinion what do you think should be done to reduce the level of street begging

Probe for: family responsibility, community and government responsibility.

## **APPENDIX II:**

### **KII Guide For Street Children**

Dear respondents, I am a final year student with the Department of Sociology, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto. Undertaking a research on the topic “**Street Children and Their Implication in Sokoto Metropolis**”. I would like you to respond to the following questions, your responses and views will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

1. Who are street children

Probe: Age, gender, parent’s occupation, parent’s marital status, area of residence.

2. Patterns responsible for the increasing number of street children.

- a. What are the major activities commonly found to street?

Probe for: Forms of the activities, time they spent on the street and places they mostly cover.

- b. How can you relate children’s loitering with their family structure?

Probe for: single parenting, poor socialization, lack of parental care and how respective is their family in satisfying children’s physiological needs?

- c. Do you think children’ street loitering has relationship with prepare group?

- d. Do street children have access to quality education?



Probe for: relationship between access to quality education and children's street loitering.

3. Delinquent behaviors associated with street children.

a. What forms of delinquent behaviors commonly find to street children.

Probe for: nature, type and level of occurrence.

b. Do these children engage in any drug addiction?

Probe for: type of drug, availability, accessibility and places of consumption.

c. Do street children in sexual harassment/prostitution?

Probe for: how often you address such cases?

d. What other categories of delinquent behaviour that street children engage in?

Probe for: school absenterison/truancy, theft, political thuggery, area boyish.

4. The level at which the street children affect security in Sokoto metropolis.

a. How can you explain the level of street children involvement in any crises you witness in Sokoto metropolis?

Probe for: Level of children's involvement, their contribution to the crises and level of their victimization.

b. Do street children attend political rallies or any other form of rally?

Probe for: level of their participation, motivating factor, sponsors and the roles they play in the rallies.

c. How often do you detain these children for issues related to security?

Probe for: number of children compared to adult, number of children still in deduction.

d. How is your relationship with street children?

5. Possible Solution to the problem of street children.

In your own opinion, what do you suggest should be done to reduce the number of street begging?

Probe for: family, community responsibility and government responsibility to address the problem of street children.