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Faith Based Organisations Strategies and the welfare of street children in Lango sub-region: Evidence from Lira City, Uganda

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Abstract

Purpose: The study aimed to examine the relationship between Faith Based Organisations Strategies (FBOS) and Welfare of Street Children (WSC) in Lira City, specifically focusing on the effect of FBOS in terms of preventive strategies, rehabilitation strategies, outreach strategies and collaboration strategies on the WSC.

Methodology: The study adopted a descriptive study design, which employed a mixed method approach of both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study population consisted of 219 which included district and sub-county officials, Simple random sampling technique and purposive sampling, was used to select a sample size of 196 participants. The researcher used self-administered questionnaires to collect quantitative data, interview guide and focus group discussion guide to collect qualitative data. Descriptive statistics (mean, and standard deviation), and inferential statistics (correlation and regression) were used to analyse numerical data. Content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data from interviews to supplement quantitative data.

Findings: The results revealed a statistically significant positive relationship between FBOS and the WSC. The study also revealed that preventive Strategy had a significant effect on the WSC ($\beta=0.061$, $P<0.01$), rehabilitation ($\beta=0.625$, $P<0.01$), outreach strategy ($\beta=0.096$, $P<0.01$) and Collaborative strategy ($\beta=0.086$, $P<0.01$).

Conclusion: Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that FBOS have a significant effect on the WSC in Lira City, northern Uganda.

Unique contribution to policy and/or practice: This study contributes an original and empirical-evidence of the relationship between FBOS and the WSC in Uganda. That is why the quest for improved WSC in Lira City calls for concerted engagement among both urban government actors and other non-state actors to mobilize local communities to embrace the FBOS so as to guarantee the WSC in Uganda.

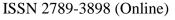**Keywords**: *FBOS, WSC, street children, welfare, strategies*

1. Introduction

The concept of welfare is as old as mankind. In the views of Davidie (2017), welfare encompasses efforts to provide a basic level of well-being through free or subsidized social services such as healthcare, education, infrastructures, vocational training, and housing. Welfare bears its target on the vulnerable such as street children whoVrooman (2019) categorized as poor or homeless children who live on the streets of a city, town, or village. Walker (2014) contends that the idea of welfare was birthed in the fifth century AD when the Roman Empire was believed to have been the first institution to practice it through Emperor Augustus who reportedly provided the *Cura Annonae* or grain dole for citizens who could not afford to buy food every month. Later, from the fifteenth century, welfare systems was believed to have covered a wider area of the globe, but it differed from country to country, although it was commonly provided to individuals who were unemployed, ill, disable, elderly, and those with dependent children, and most recently, the street children. However, Vrooman (2019) assets that it was in the eleventh century AD that street children began to be noticed in the world, specifically in Europe, but became administratively recognized only in sixteenth-century in England and dealt with as an issue regarding children who faced cruelty and negligence on the streets.

A Report by the City Community Development Officer (CCDO, January 2022) enumerated FBOs operating in Lira City as having included Children of the Nations (COTN), the All Nations Christian Church (ANCC), the Child Restoration Outreach (CRO), Saving Grace in Uganda, Ave Maria Vocational Initiative, and Bishop Asili Foundation, among others. These FBOs undertake street children rehabilitation with a view that street children are damaged and in need of help, thus serving a major objective of craving strategies aimed at rehabilitating children into mainstream society. This study was grounded by the Maslow theory of motivation and specifically focusing the basic needs aspect. Maslow (1943, 1954) stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs and that some needs take precedence over others. Our most basic need is for physical survival, and this will be the first thing that motivates our behaviour. Once that level is fulfilled the next level up is what motivates us, and so on. Maslow identified the first need in his hierarchy of needs as being Physiological needs which are biological requirements for human survival, and they include: air, food, drink, shelter, clothing, warmth, sex, sleep (Mcleod, 2020). If these needs are not satisfied the human body cannot function optimally. Maslow considered physiological needs the most important as all the other needs become secondary until these needs are met. For the purpose of this study the focus are on food, drinks, shelter, clothing, and warmth, sleep as needs and we are looking at this at a family level which could cause the emergence of street children if not addressed.

Still in Lira City, FBOs have adopted an outreach strategy which views street children as oppressed individuals in need of support from their communities. The objective of the outreach strategy is to empower these children by providing outreach education and skill training to support children. There is also the preventive strategy which views street children's poor circumstances from negative social and economic forces (Boswell, 2018). In order to

help street children, this strategy focuses on the problems that cause children to leave their homes for the street by targeting parents' unemployment, poor housing campaign for children's rights. The FBOs further focus on using collaborative strategy which looks at the option of partnership and collaboration with other stakeholders such as the clan, local councils, members of extended families, and both Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) dealing with welfare of vulnerable children like UNICEF and Plan Uganda. There was a need to undertake a study that will examine the effectiveness of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in the enhancement of WSC because Lira City is blessed with a good number of FBOs with better strategies to handle the WSC.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

In Uganda, the UNICEF Report (2021) estimated the number of street children at 18,276 and about 47% of that was living on the streets of Kampala City; and in Lira City, there were an estimated 11.06% living on the streets. As of December, 2021, the City Community Development Officer confirmed that about 802 street children were under the care of different FBOs across the city. There have been several attempts by international organizations such as UNICEF and Plan International, Government of Uganda, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) towards WSC. FBOs such as COTN, CRO, Saving Grace in Uganda and Ave Maria Vocational Initiatives have undertaken strategies such as rehabilitation, outreach, prevention and collaboration with the sole aim of enhancing the WSC. Despite interventions by these FBOs through different strategies in Lira City by providing child needs that include food supply to selected families, clothes, books, assorted medical packages, and endeavour to integrate some street children with their families, the WSC appears to be lacking attention, given the continuous rise in their number. Literally, there is still no known empirical study or any published material on the WSC in Lira City. This study therefore proposed to undertake an investigation that would establish the effectiveness of FBOS in enhancing the WSC in Lira City.

The objective of this study was to examine the effectiveness of FBOS in the enhancement of WSC in Lango sub-region. Consequently, four questions informed the study, viz. (i) to find out the effectiveness of preventive strategies in enhancing the WSC in Lira City. (ii) To analyse the effectiveness of rehabilitation strategies in enhancing WSC in Lira City. (iii) To examine the effectiveness of outreach strategies in enhancing WSC in Lira City. And (iv) To establish the effectiveness of collaboration as a strategy of enhancing the WSC in Lira City.

2. Literature Review

Several theories were advanced to describe the relationship between poverty and street children. According to (Mcleod, 2020) in Maslow theory of motivation and specifically focusing the basic needs aspect. Maslow (1943, 1954) stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs and that some needs take precedence over others. Our most basic need is for physical survival, and this would be the first thing that motivates our behaviour. Once

that level is fulfilled the next level up is what motivates us, and so on. Maslow identified the first need in his hierarchy of needs as being Physiological needs which are biological requirements for human survival, and they include: air, food, drink, shelter, clothing, warmth, sex, sleep (Mcleod, 2020). If these needs are not satisfied the human body cannot function optimally. Maslow considered physiological needs the most important as all the other needs become secondary until these needs are met. For the purpose of this study the focus are on food, drinks, shelter, clothing, and warmth, sleep as needs and the researcher was looking at this at a family level which could cause the emergence of street children if not addressed. While (Myers & Hansen, 2020) in the theory of access by Ribot and Peluso which states that easy access to productive resources such as land, water, labour capital is fundamental for families with children that rely on crop and livestock production for their livelihoods. Each of these resources has a bearing in the livelihood of poor families to settle their needs and demands. This theory proposes that access to such means of production can enable any family to among others settle their needs that could make children move to street if not met at a family level.

It can be noted that both propositions suggest that poor families have got needs and demands and these demands need some form of resources to settle their domestic problems and needs like hunger, social discrimination, lack of shelter, health and education among others and these resources should be accessed by these families to settle their needs especially for the children. The two theories all have a point of linkage on domestic needs that each family constituting parents and children shave have so as to be complete. Meanwhile, they both fail to address the fact that these needs are peculiar for the well-being of children and the resultant effect on children if these needs are not met. In this study, the clearly identified effect that is likely to occur is that Children will take to the street to find and or solve these needs in a situation that the family setting is unable to meet them. In view of the issues raised above, the relationship between Poverty and the emergence of street children should be characterised by inability of families especially in Urban areas to meet their very basic needs such as food to feed the family population, the inabilities of families to handle the social needs which will result to social discrimination and also their inabilities to house their children leading to inadequate or lack of shelter.

2.1 Faith-Based Organisations (FBOS)

It is imperative to note that a strategy encompasses any plan or approach designed and implemented to achieve a particular goal (Boswell, 2018). According to Berezina (2017) FBOs undertake street children rehabilitation with a view that street children are damaged and in need of help, thus serving a major objective of craving strategies aimed at rehabilitating children into mainstream society. Strategies such as vocational skill training, drug detoxification programmes, and provision of street children with a safe family-like environment were always aimed at keeping those street children from going back to the streets. FBOs have also adopted an outreach strategy which views street children as oppressed individuals in need of support from their communities. The objective of the outreach strategy is to empower these children by providing outreach education and skill training to support

children. There is also the preventive strategy which views street children's poor circumstances from negative social and economic forces (Boswell, 2018). In order to help street children, this strategy focuses on the problems that cause children to leave their homes for the street by targeting parents' unemployment, poor housing campaign for children's rights. The FBOs further focus on using collaborative strategy which looks at the option of partnership and collaboration with other stakeholders such as the clan, local councils, members of extended families, and both NGOs and INGOs dealing with welfare of vulnerable children like UNICEF and Plan Uganda. Thus, Lira City is blessed with a good number of FBOs with better strategies to handle the WSC.

2.2 The Welfare of Street Children (WSC)

Street children was defined as poor or homeless children who live on the streets of a city, town, or village and homeless youth were often called street kids or street child (Bielefeld; Wolfgang; Cleveland; & William, 2013). The definition of street children adapted for this study was that street children are the population of young boys and girls below the age of 18 years who live on the streets of urban centres, including areas such as wastelands, unoccupied dwellings and unfinished buildings as their habitual abode and source of their livelihood without proper adult supervision (Ferris & Elisabeth, 2015). They were characterized by all those children with; difficulties in providing themselves with good sources of food, clean drinking water, health care services, toilets and bath facilities, and adequate shelter who also suffer from absence of parental protection and security due to the missing connection with their families (Cumber & Tsoka-Gwegweni, 2016).

The literatures fell short of adequately pointing out the ingredients of WSC that are perceived to have been enhanced through the identified strategies. Apparently, there was limited empirical research on the effectiveness of FBOs strategies in enhancing the WSC in Lira City. Perhaps this could have been due to the fact that most of these FBOs have not been sharing their success story with the rest of the world or no interested party had made contact with them on this subject matter. This implies that this study topic had not attracted adequate attention in terms of empirical research. It is thus, this gap in literatures that this particular study will vigorously seek to bridge. Conclusively, the different literatures extracted was significant in bringing the ideas of operation of Faith-based organisational strategies such as prevention means, rehabilitation, collaboration and outreach programmes which are all meant to enhance the WSC. The literature was thus of great significance in moderating the study.

3. Methodology

3.1 Study Design

The descriptive design was used to investigate the research problem. This design was preferred because it offered an opportunity to integrate the qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection with the aim of systematically describing a phenomenon, situation, or a population. The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative approaches of data collection; and analysis, presentation and interpretation of results. Quantitative methods

would obtain numerical data while qualitative methods would be used to generate descriptive data explaining facts that would be revealed by quantitative data. This was because the use of a mixed method will help the researcher to avoid the limitations of a single approach through triangulation of methods to provide opportunities for testing alternative interpretations of data.

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Lira City. Located about 338kms or 209 miles by road from Kampala, Lira City is bordered by the two districts of Lira district to the North and East; and Kole district to the South and West. The coordinate for the city is 2.14^0 N, 32.54^0 E, with the Latitude and Longitude of 02.2472 and 32.9000. The city is home to about 119,323 people, with the major economic activity being trade and commerce.

3.3 Study Population

The study population was comprised of stakeholders such as religious institutions, cultural institutions and local government institutions that are directly involved in the management of street children in Lira City. The choice of this category of population for this study was preferred because it was the unit for which the findings of this study were meant to be generalized. The target population in this study was 15 Faith–Based Organizations, 154 cultural leaders, 10 Community Development Officers (CDO), 48 Town Agents, 122 Local Council Leaders (LCs), 48 Child Protection Committees (CPC), and 04 Officers-in-Charge of Child and Family Protection Unit (C/FPU); and community members. The choice of this study population was supported by the view that the researcher would be able to make reliable estimates of population with less time, effort and other resources with the representative of the population of interest because it would have been a rare scenario to have data on an entire target population.

3.4 Sample size and sampling technique

Since the population under study was already known by the researcher, the portion for selection during data collection was determined using Krejcie and Morgan Table (1970). Thus, out of the 401 target population, the sample size will be 196 respondents. Both simple random sampling and purposive sampling were used in the study: For the generation of quantitative data, simple random sampling technique would be used in the selection of the 196 respondents. This technique reduced the prospect of subjectivity during selection; and Ladusingh (2018) contends that the technique is usually preferred in a study purely to ensure unbiased selection where each member in the study population has an equal chance of being included in the sample. For qualitative data, purposive sampling was adopted in the selection of respondents. This is aimed at ensuring that the individuals selected under this category have the relevant knowledge on the research problem, and are not left out in the study as they were key informants. It will be used in selecting the CDOs, Town Agents, the Police, and Local Council Leaders. Purposive sampling allowed a researcher to squeeze a lot of useful information from informed respondents who are not majorly the target population of a study (Ladusingh, 2018).

Table 1: Distribution of respondents

S/N	Category of Respondents	Population	Sample Size	Sampling techniques
1	Faith-Based Organizations	15	14	Simple Random Sampling
2	Cultural Leaders	25	24	Simple Random Sampling
3	Community Development Officer	10	10	Purposive Sampling
4	Town Agents	55	48	Purposive Sampling
5	Police Officers	04	04	Purposive Sampling
6	Local Council Leaders	55	48	Simple Random Sampling
7	Child Protection Committee	55	48	Purposive Sampling
	TOTAL	219	196	

Source: Field data, 2022

3.5 Data collection

This source involved review of documents, a list of which would be captured in the reference herein at the end. This involved a rigorous review of available literature which included reports, books, journals and files. The purpose of the review was to get the relevant information relating to the subject matter. This source provided information to supplement the primary sources of data hereinabove. Documentation, Questionnaire, Interview Guide and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was used as instruments in gathering of unprocessed information or data which was used in the consideration of the study results and findings. Questionnaire is a designed statement with corresponding responses to be administered to the target respondents in order to obtain quantitative data. It was used in gathering items to which respondents are expected to respond in writing or as instructed. Closed-ended questions was preferred because it gave out questions that can only be answered by selecting from a limited number of options. This questionnaire was divided into sections based on the specific objectives of this research. This tool was used to collect data from FBOs, Cultural Leaders, and Community members. The use of questionnaire in this study is preferred because it provided a relatively cheap, quick and efficient way of obtaining large amounts of information from a large sample of people.

An Interview Guide was used during person-to-person verbal communication in which the researcher poses questions and respondents was expected to give their opinion or responses regarding information that cannot be directly observed. This method was administered to CDOs, Town Agents, and Local Council (L.C) leaders. This is preferred because information comes directly from knowledgeable people, key informant interviews often provide data and insight that cannot be obtained easily; and may offer confidential information that would not be revealed in other settings. Also, focus groups were used to obtain research data from a purposively selected group of individuals, rather than from a statistically representative sample of a broader population. The researchers asked broad questions to elicit responses and generate discussion among the participants with the aim of generating maximum amount of opinion during the study. This was administered to members of community in Lira City who were not be selected to provide responses in the questionnaire and interview guide. There were three categories of participants for this FGD: category 01 was men only; category 02 was women only; and category 03 was a mixture of both men and women. The choice of this data collection technique was preferred because it uncovered ideas and issues that initially may not have been considered in the questionnaire but are important to the study. There were two focus group discussions each organized with 9-12 participants selected using purposive sampling techniques owing to the knowledge they have on the subject matter.

3.6 Data analysis

The raw data from the field was cleaned, sorted, and edited manually to remove errors and ensure completeness of data. This involved scrutinizing the questionnaires for errors, omissions and ambiguous classifications. For quantitative data and qualitative information, the analysis was separately done: Data generated through questionnaires was coded and the study variables was assigned numerical values in the IBM SPSS version 23 which ensured that the data was categorized appropriately for easy use of both descriptive and inferential statistics. In order to address the research questions, descriptive analysis was performed to establish the mean, standard deviation, frequencies and percentages which helped in summarizing the variables. Inferential statistics was used to test the perceived link between the FBOs strategies and the WSC. Linear regression analysis was conducted to help in establishing the effectiveness of independent variable on the dependent variable. Overall, quantitative data was presented in charts, tables and percentages. Thematic analysis was used in categorizing, classifying, summarizing and tabulating the information. Braun and Clarke (2019) believe that thematic analysis emphasizes identifying, analysing and interpreting patterns of meaning within qualitative data. This was done by coding responses through labelling and organizing the qualitative data to identify different themes and the relationships between them. By assigning labels to words or phrases that represent important and recurring themes in each response, content analysis was done through categorization; and presented in direct quotation.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability can be referred to as the credibility, transferability, objectivity and dependability (Lincon and Guba, 2005). Validity and reliability assisted the researcher in making the research findings to be rationally convincing, not only to himself or herself, but also to other people as well. As observed by Orodho (2009), the researcher was expected to be aware of the degree to which a test measures what it purports to be measuring. Considering that validity helped the researcher to obtain an authentic data and observe total objectivity, the researcher ensured criterion validity and content validity during this research processes. Question content was made simple and straightforward enough to reflect what the study intended to address, while avoiding being bias or leading the respondents. Reliability should lead to the same results when the same methods are used by different researchers (Smith, 2015). To ensure that a measure produces the same scores across different times, groups of people, or versions of the instruments, the researcher will use Cronbach Alpha, where items with poor reliability on the scale was modified or completely changed as necessary. An explanatory factor analysis was run on all the items contained in the data to weed out those variables that fail to show high correlation. Piloting the data collection instruments was also done to ensure reliability.

4. Presentation and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Response Rate

For this study, the sample size for quantitative data was 196 respondents. A total of 165 questionnaires were returned, giving a response rate of 84.18%. The response rate conforms to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) stipulation, that a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting; a response rate of 60% is good while a response rate of ≥70% is excellent. This indicates that the result of the finding especially on the objectives are reliably addressed as demanded by this study. The result is expected to sufficiently feed the objectives and the study demand.

4.2 Background Information

This sub-section presents the background information regarding gender, age, marital status, educational attainment, and occupation of the respondents. The total number of respondents was 165, out of which 109 (66.06 %) were male, and 56 (33.94%) of the respondents were female. This implies that both sexes were represented in this study despite higher proportion of men. The high representation of male as opposed to male could be as a result of openness that men always give to family matters especially on children and the reasons why they are on the street as women tend to keep silent on such key issues. Results reveal that a higher proportion 103 (74.55%) were in the age group of 31-50 years, and 12 (6.67%) were in the age group of 18-30 years. This implies that most of the respondents interviewed are mature and probably could give well thought ideas in relations to the study variables. The age group 31-50 years of age that are heavily represented here are ages with

children whose ages are majority on the streets and they could be those that are affected and have children actually on the street.

Regarding the marital status of the respondents, the majority 147 (89.09%) were married, and 01 respondent (0.61%) each responded being under divorce category, and widowed or widower. This implies that the respondents were very responsible persons who could give informed decisions regarding the WSC. Married people have got children in their marriages and it is very possible that these children are from such families of the married couples and that why majority of them took interest in the study thereby constituting the highest participants in the study as opposed to the widowed and the divorced who may not be having children. Majority of respondents (48.48%) attended primary education and only 02 (1.21%) had not attended school. This implies that the more respondents were literate. The level with the highest number of study participants being Primary level of education could be justifiably meaning that these are people without prime knowledge of birth control and they have so many children that they cannot afford to keep and thereby making them such parents with the highest number of children in the streets. Also, majority of respondents (75.15%) were either civil servants or working in other government institutions; and 18 (10.91%) were farmers. This implies that the respondents were experienced and they could give informed decisions regarding the WSC. The response rate putting civil servants and government institutions at the highest could be explain by the fact that they are at the helm of handling issues related to the emergence of street children in many developing cities and it is their roles to keep the City organized and clean.

4.3 Descriptive Statistics of the study constructs

Descriptive statistics was used to describe the Faith-Based Organization strategies such as preventive, rehabilitation, outreach and collaborative in relations to the WSC specifically in terms of mean, and standard deviation. The results were extracted from a Likert scale of strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), uncertain (3), agree (4), & strongly agree (5), with "1" being the lowest scores and "5" highest scores.

Table 2: The effectiveness of FBOs Strategies

Variable	Mean	SD
Preventive Strategies	2.86	.85
Rehabilitative Strategies	3.49	.79
Outreach Strategies	2.72	.80
Collaborative Strategies	2.48	.72

Source: Primary data (September, 2022)

Table 2 above shows that rehabilitative strategies were significant in enhancing the WSC at a mean value of 3.49 and collaborative strategies were least significant in enhancing the WSC at an average mean of 2.48. Rehabilitation strategy has emerged highest in performance here implying that there are already in existence the street children and they have to be handled as Collaborative and other strategies may drag.

4.3 Descriptive statistics of preventive strategies

The preventive strategies variables analysed are related to awareness of children rights, creating income generating activities, advocacy for peace in families, identifying pull-factors, and addressing some underlying causes of street children.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics of preventive strategies

Variables	Mean	SD	1-2	3	4-5
Awareness on children rights is usually made by FBOs	2.89	0.89	45.3	20.9	33.8
Income generating activities created for poor families	2.81	0.92	53.2	13.0	33.8
FBOs usually advocate for household or family peace	2.46	0.75	52.2	14.4	37.8
FBOs usually identify pull-factors for street children	3.42	0.84	23.0	11.5	65.5
FBOs usually address underlying causes of street children	2.70	0.85	55.8	18.8	25.4
Total	**2.86**	**0.85**	-	-	-

Source: Primary data, as amended by the researchers (2022)

*1-2 (%): Strongly disagree to disagree; *3 (%): Neither disagree nor agree; *4-5 (%): Agree to strongly agree.

Table 3 above revealed that 65.5% agreed that Faith-Based Organizations usually identify pull-factors for street children. However, 55.8% disagreed that Faith-Based Organizations usually address underlying causes of street children, 53.2% disagreed that Income generating activities created for poor families, 52.2% disagreed that Faith-Based Organizations usually advocate for household or family peace, and 45.3% disagreed that Awareness on children rights is usually made by Faith-Based Organizations. The average mean of 2.86 is below 3.0 which imply that generally, preventive strategies are not very effective in enhancing the WSC. This is in support of the qualitative data got from the focus group discussion where majority of them attested to the fact that Faith Based organization preventive strategy indeed positively affect the WSC. This is also supported by the study Baker and Evans (2016) 0n the strategy offered by Faith Based Organisations and their strategies. This answers the first research question whether Faith Based Organisation had any impact on the WSC in Lira City.

4.4 Descriptive statistics of rehabilitation strategies

The rehabilitation strategies variables analysed are: resettlement of street children is done by FBOs, re-integration of street children, support to education of street children, drug de-toxification programme, and continuous counselling for street children.

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of rehabilitation strategies

Variables	Mean	SD	1-2	3	4-5
Resettlement of street children is done by FBOs	3.44	0.82	20.7	5.90	72.1
Street children are re-integrated in the community by FBOs	3.31	0.81	21.9	24.8	54.2
Support towards education of street children is done by FBOs	3.70	0.67	11.7	6.6	80.8
FBOs ran some 'drug de-toxification' programme for street children	3.51	0.79	18.1	12.3	66.7
FBOs usually carryout continuous counselling for street children	3.47	0.84	22.5	8.0	68.6
Total	**3.49**	**0.79**	-	-	-

Source: Primary data as amended by the researchers (2022)

*1-2 (%): Strongly disagree to disagree; *3 (%): Neither disagree nor agree; *4-5 (%): Agree to strongly agree

Table 4 above indicates that 80.8%, 72.1%, 68.6%, 66.7%, and 54.2% of the respondents agreed that support towards education of street children is done by Faith-Based Organizations, resettlement of street children is done by FBOs, they usually carryout continuous counselling for street children, FBOs ran some 'drug de-toxification' programme for street children, and street children are re-integrated in the community by FBOs, respectively. The average mean of 3.49 is above 3.0 which imply that rehabilitation strategies were satisfactory in enhancing the WSC in Lira City. The finding indicates that rehabilitation strategy had a significant effect on the welfare of the street children in Lira City as supported by the qualitative findings during focus group discussion and interviews conducted. This is further supported by study conducted by Chavajay and Rogoff (2016) on the different strategies by Faith Based Organisations on the welfare of street kids. This answers the second research question in affirmative.

4.5 Descriptive statistics of outreach strategies

The outreach strategies variables analysed are related to visit to families of street children, holding prayers and fellowship with street children, counselling for street children, making follow-up on education progress, and support to education of street children.

Table 5: Descriptive statistics of outreach strategies

Variables	Mean	SD	1-2	3	4-5
Members of FBOs usually visit the families of street children	2.68	0.89	33.1	18.7	48.2
FBOs usually hold prayers and fellowship with street children	2.41	0.78	70.3	24.6	5.1
FBOs usually undertake counselling for children or streets	2.34	0.62	74.5	8.0	17.5
FBOs usually make follow-ups on the education progress of street children	2.85	0.83	28.0	21.6	50.4
FBOs usually support the education of street children	3.34	0.87	19.3	5.1	75.6
Total	**2.72**	**0.80**	-	-	-

Source: Primary data as amended by the researchers (2022)

*1-2 (%): Strongly disagree to disagree; *3 (%): Neither disagree nor agree; *4-5 (%): Agree to strongly agree

Table 10 above demonstrates that 75.6% agreed that FBOs usually support the education of street children, 50.4% agreed that FBOs usually make follow-ups on the education progress of street children, and 48.2% agreed that Members of FBOs usually visit the families of street children. However, 74.5% of respondents disagreed that FBOs usually undertake counselling for children or streets, and 70.3% disagreed that FBOs usually hold prayers and fellowship with street children. The average mean of outreach strategies is 2.72 which is below 3.0 indicating that the outreach strategies used by FBOs is not very effective in enhancing the WSC in Lira City. This finding is further supported by the qualitative findings offered during FGD with different stake holders who confirmed that outreach strategy is effective in managing the welfare of the street children in Lira city and also the result of the interviews conducted with key informants indicates the same and this is supported by the study conducted by Rubin and Hunk (2019). This answers the third research question in affirmative.

4.6 Descriptive statistics of collaborative strategies

The collaborative strategies variables analysed are related to the collaboration efforts with international NGOs, local NGOs, government structures, clan leaders, and institutions such schools and health centres.

Table 6: Descriptive statistics of collaborative strategies

Variables	Mean	SD	1-2	3	4-5
FBOs work in collaboration with International NGOs	2.66	0.79	53.9	13.0	33.1
FBOs work in collaboration with local NGOs, CSOs, groups	2.61	0.81	57.3	24.6	18.1
FBOs work in collaboration with government structures, LC	2.34	0.62	64.1	17.5	18.4
FBOs work in collaboration with clan leaders	2.09	0.53	89.2	2.7	8.6
FBOs work in collaboration with institutions e.g. schools, H/C	2.68	0.83	55.4	21.6	23.0
Total	**2.48**	**0.72**	-	-	-

Source*: Primary data as amended by the researchers (2022)*

*1-2 (%): Strongly disagree to disagree; *3 (%): Neither disagree nor agree; *4-5 (%): Agree to strongly agree

Table 6 above indicates that 89.2% of respondents disagreed that FBOs work in collaboration with clan leaders, 64.1% disagreed that FBOs work in collaboration with government structures such as Local Councils, 57.3% disagreed that FBOs work in collaboration with local NGOs, CSOs and groups, 55.4% disagreed that FBOs work in collaboration with institutions such as schools and Health Centres, and 53.9% disagreed that FBOs work in collaboration with International NGOs. The average mean of collaborative strategies is 2.48 which is below 3.0 indicating that collaborative strategies is not effective in enhancing the WSC in Lira City. The qualitative data from FGD and the interview conducted with the key informants indicates that indeed the collaborative strategy has a significant bearing on the welfare of the street children in Lira city as it in line with the study conducted by (Mejia et al 2017). This answers the fourth research question which was asking whether collaborative strategy can significantly improve the welfare of the street children in Lira City.

4.7 Descriptive statistics for WSC

The variables of WSC analysed were: talent development, innovation and creativity, psychosocial support, safety and security, material support, shelter and accommodation

requirements, reduction in the number of street children, and permanent resettlement of street children in their homes.

Table 7: Descriptive statistics for WSC

Items	Mean	SD	1-2	3	4-5
FBOs strategies enhance talent development e.g. games, sports, MDD, etc.	2.99	0.89	38.9	21.0	40.1
FBOs strategies enhance innovation, creativity, and skills training	2.77	0.87	51.5	19.8	28.7
FBOs strategies enhance psycho-social support, spiritual growth, etc.	2.93	0.87	34.8	23.7	41.5
FBOs strategies enhance the safety and security of street children	3.14	0.88	32.6	21.0	46.4
FBOs strategies enhance material support, e.g. food, clothing, bedding, etc.	3.34	0.87	26.3	13.1	60.6
FBOs strategies enhance the provision of shelter and accommodation requirements	3.41	0.82	21.2	16.8	62.0
FBOs strategies reduce the number of children on streets	2.84	0.90	49.6	16.8	33.6
FBOs strategies prevent children from returning to streets	3.07	0.91	36.0	0.1	63.9
Total	**3.06**	**0.88**	-	-	-

Source: Primary data (2022)

*1-2 (%): Strongly disagree to disagree; *3 (%): Neither disagree nor agree; *4-5 (%): Agree to strongly agree

The findings in Table 7 above shows that, 63.9% of respondents agreed that FBOs strategies prevent children from returning to streets, 62.0% agree that FBOS enhance the provision of shelter and accommodation requirements, 60.6% agree that FBOS enhance material support, e.g. food, clothing and bedding, 46.4% agree that FBOS enhance the safety and security of street children, 41.5% agree that FBOS enhance psycho-social support and spiritual growth, and that 40.1% of respondents agreed that strategies enhance talent development e.g. games, sports, and MDD. However, 33.6% and 28.7% of respondents disagreed that FBOS reduce the number of children on streets, and enhance innovation,

creativity, and skills training for street children. Generally, the average mean of WSC is 3.06 which are actually above 3.0, bearing an indication that WSC in Lira City have been enhanced by FBOS.

4.7 Relationship between school environmental factors and girl's education

The study used Pearson product-moment correlation analysis to establish the strength of relationship between FBOS and WSC. The correlations results are interpreted on the basis that when two variables are related, positively or negatively, they vary together. This research study considered the case where there were several independent variables and one dependent variable. In other words, the correlation scores show how well the independent variables are able to predict the dependent variable. In addition, correlations estimate the extent to which the changes in one variable are associated with changes in the other variable. If the coefficient of correlation is -1 it is considered a perfect negative correlation and if the correlation is +1 then it is considered a perfect positive correlation. The closer the value is to -1 or +1 the stronger the relationship is considered to be. The summary of correlations and their significance levels are presented in table below:

Table 8: Pair wise correlations

Variables	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) WSC	1.000				
(2) Preventive Strategies	0.061	1.000			
(3) Rehabilitative Strategies	0.625**	0.073	1.000		
(4) Outreach Strategies	0.096	0.437**	0.228*	1.000	
(5) Collaborative Strategies	0.086	0.322*	0.410*	0.264*	1000

** p<0.01, * p<0.05

The results in table 8 above shows that WSC is positively and significantly correlated to rehabilitative strategies (r=0.625, p<0.01), than preventive strategies (r=0.061, p<0.01), outreach Strategies (r=0.096, p<0.01), and collaborative Strategies (r=0.086, p<0.01). This implies that as the rehabilitative strategies increase, the scores in WSC also increase. However, outreach Strategies and is significantly correlated with preventive Strategies (r=0.437, p<0.01) and rehabilitative strategies (r=0.228, p<0.01). Finally, collaborative Strategies is positively and significantly correlated with Preventive Strategies (r=0.322, p<0.01), Rehabilitative Strategies(r=0.410, p<0.01), and Outreach Strategies(r=0.264, p<0.01). This result indicates that all the suggested FBOS are significantly correlated to the dependent variable being the welfare of the street children at level 1% of confidence. This implies that preventive strategy,

rehabilitation strategy, outreach strategy and collaborative strategy are all important to the welfare of the street children in Lira City.

4.8 Linear regression for predicting girl's education

The linear regression analysis was carried out to establish the degree of effectiveness of FBOS in enhancing the WSC as illustrated on table 9.

Table 9: Linear regression for predicting girl's education

WSC	Coef.	St. Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf	Interval]	Sig
Preventive Strategies	0.18	0.16	0.82	0.417	-0.159	0.382	
Rehabilitative Strategies	0.59	0.11	3.59	0.000	0.161	0.931	***
Outreach Strategies	0.33	0.14	1.63	0.106	-0.047	0.484	
Collaborative Strategies	0.11	0.13	0.69	0.422	-0.262	0.297	
Constant	0.90	0.39	2.27	0.025	0.114	1.689	**

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Model Summary

Mean dependent var	3.060	SD dependent var	0.880
Adjusted R-squared	0.193	Number of obs	109
F-test	10.116	Prob > F	0.000
Akaike crit. (AIC)	189.174	Bayesian crit. (BIC)	201.027

The finding on table 9 above revealed that only rehabilitative strategies (p<0.01; $\beta = 0.59$) significantly predicts the WSC. However preventive strategies, outreach strategies and collaborative strategies are explaining approximately 20% variation of all the possible strategies that are likely to enhance the WSC in Lira City (Adjusted R^2= 0.193). This indicates that there can be ~20% variability in the WSC even after taking a number of predictor variables. The fact that the simultaneous variation of independent variables explains the WSC to the extent of 19.3%, would mean an expected increase in 0.59 score in WSC for every unit

increase in rehabilitative strategies, assuming all other variables in the model are held constant.

5. Conclusion

The study sought to examine the effectiveness of FBOS in the enhancement of WSC in Lira City. The regression analysis on the effect of preventive strategies in enhancing the welfare of children in Lira city indicated that preventive strategies had a regression coefficient 0.625. This indicated that preventive strategies had a significant effect on enhancement of WSC in Lira City. This implies that preventive strategy is significant to the WSC in Lira. The regression analysis on the effect of rehabilitation strategies indicated that rehabilitation strategies had a regression coefficient of 0.061. This indicated that rehabilitation strategies had a significant effect on enhancing the welfare of the street children in Lira City. The implication is that rehabilitation strategy had significant effect on the welfare of the street children in Lira City. The regression analysis on the effect of outreach strategies in enhancing the WSC indicated that outreach strategies had a regression coefficient of 0.096. This indicated that outreach strategies had a significant effect on the enhancement of street children in Lira City. The implication is that outreach strategy had positive significant effect on the welfare of the street children. The regression analysis on the effect of collaboration as a strategy in enhancing the WSC indicated that collaboration strategies had a regression coefficient of 0.086. This indicated that outreach strategies had a significant effect on the enhancement of street children in Lira City. The implication here is that collaborative strategy had a positive significant effect on the street children welfare.

The purpose of this study was to examine the effectiveness of FBOS in the enhancement of WSC in Lira City. The study was both quantitative and qualitative in nature and employed cross-sectional research design. The sample size of the study was 196 respondents. Data was collected with the help of questionnaires, interview guide and focus group discussion guide while analysis of the data collected was done with the help of SPSS version 23 where correlation and linear regression were made use of. It is noted that if the preventive strategy was taken up, it will greatly help in reducing the emergence of street children in Lira City. The study also concluded that preventive strategy if adapted can greatly reduce the number of street kids. Also, rehabilitation strategy is very instrumental in enhancing the WSC in Lira City since there are already quite a number of street children in existence. Further, outreach strategy can be used as a tool of improving on the WSC in Lira City. This is because the methodology has proved to be successful in enhancing welfare of the street children. And, collaboration strategy can be used to enhance the WSC in Lira City because it helps in generating a collaborative support for every actor.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is suggested that:

a) Both the political and local leaders should mobilise the community members to join hands in upholding key issues in the objective of this study to enhance the welfare of the street children.

b) Government is encouraged to recognize that children are catered for well right from the family setting up to the policy making and policy implementation level.

Acknowledgement

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