



UNIVERSITY of
RWANDA

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTER FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

**MARITAL CONFLICTS AND
STREET CHILDREN:
A CASE STUDY OF NYARUGENGE
DISTRICT**

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of
Master's Degree in Peace Studies and Conflicts Transformation

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Musanze, June 2022

DECLARATION

To the best of my knowledge, I, MUNYABARENZI Faustin, declare that this document is my authentic work. It is being submitted at the University of Rwanda for the fulfilment of the requirement for the award of a Master's Degree in Peace Studies and Conflicts Transformation. It has not been owned nor displayed at any other institution for inspection or distribution in its aggregate or in part. Where other's works have been used, they have been acknowledged in the reference list.

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I, undersigned **Alice URUSARO Karekezi, PhD** hereby testify that under my supervision, Mr **MUNYABARENZI Faustin** has successfully completed writing his MA Dissertation titled: **“Marital Conflict and Street Children in Nyarugenge District”**.

Therefore, he stands with my authorization to submit required copies to the Administration of CCM for evaluation.

Done at Jinja, June 10, 2022

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alice Urusaro Karekezi', written over a vertical line.

DEDICATION

To God Almighty,

To My Parents,

To My Lovely Wife:

Henriette

To My Lovely Children:

Thecla

Marius

Omer

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This research could not have been done without constant support, encouragement and, friendship from my supervisor, Alice URUSARO KAREKEZI, PhD, who is more proud than she would like to admit.

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MUNYABARENZI Faustin

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCM	:Center for Conflict Management
Et al.	: <i>Et alia</i> (and others)
Etc	: <i>Et caetera</i> (and so on and so forth)
FGD	:Focused Group Discussion
HIV&AIDS	:Human Immunodeficiency Virus & Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
https	:Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
IZU	: <i>Incuti z'Umuryango</i> (Friends of Family)
MIGEPROF	:Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
NCC	:National Commission for Children
NGOs	:Non-Governmental Organizations
ODCCP	:Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
OECD	:Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PhD	:Philosophae doctor
RNP	:Rwanda National Police
UN	:United Nations
UN-Habitat	:United Nations-Habitat
UNICEF	:United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UR	:University of Rwanda
UWI	: <i>Umugoroba w'Imiryango</i> (Parents' Evening Forum)
www	:world wide web

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this study is to understand the extent to which marital conflict factors contribute to the street children in Nyarugenge District, specifically in Kimisagara Sector. For this reason, collected empirical data were based on research questions, while a theoretical framework combined with other perspectives on marital conflict theory were used to conduct this research.

The theoretical framework showed how marital conflict can be both constructive and destructive. With constructive conflict theory, when parents handle conflicts in positive ways by displaying behaviours, such as verbal and physical affection, problem-solving and support, this can help preserve children's security by increasing their confidence that any difficulties between their parents will be managed in a way that maintains family harmony. Whereas, with destructive conflict, when parents manage conflict in a hostile way, such as physical aggression, verbal aggression, threat, and personal insult, this leads to lower parenting supervision, then children lack guidance and authoritative parenting, which may push children to go to the street.

The government was seen throughout the findings doing a great deal of work in ensuring that children are rescued from the streets and taken to rehabilitation centers to ensure that they are reintegrated in their families or relatives, or sent to rehabilitations centers for re-education to gain life skills. Also, there are the community based initiatives of '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*' and '*Incuti z'Umuryango*', which are home grown solutions that contribute to managing marital conflicts and prevent street children.

Therefore, several stakeholders need to be put on board to ensure that the underlying root causes of street children are mitigated. There is a need to engage them, from the governmental and non-governmental interventions, local authorities, Civil society and the community or parents to collaborate and cooperate to curb this phenomenon of street children by addressing the issue of marital conflict.

Key words: Conflict, Marital conflict, street children

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Street children as a social problem are a world-wide problem. Numbers of these children live in the streets and sleep in an open or in empty buildings, and do not receive parental daily support. In many places, and chiefly in Africa, the phenomenon of children developed against the background of a number of socioeconomic and political challenges (Kopoka, 2000). Studies also report family violence, alcoholism and other forms of abusive behavior within their families as contributing factors to the phenomenon. The main purpose of this research is to understand the extent to which marital conflict factors contribute to street children in Nyarugenge District, specifically in Kimisagara Sector. The main components of this chapter are the introduction to the research, background, the problem statement, research objective, research questions, significance of research, scope and limitation of study and lastly the structure of the study.

1.1. Background to the study

It is quite impossible to know with exact figure the number of street children as per their definition of 'street child', their status is likely to keep changing through lifetime. This makes it unclear to precise if their number is increasing in societies around the world or if it is not. In, 1989, the UNICEF reported with estimates about 100 million of children living on the streets all over the world. Thus, it is likely that the numbers of street children are increasing as this population is very fluid. In Rwanda, street children were estimated between 6,000 and 7,000 (Republic of Rwanda, NCC, 2012). The latter phenomenon is closely related to juvenile delinquency. While widespread in Rwanda, is mostly observed in urban areas.

The situation of street children poses a serious problem of insecurity for themselves as well as for else. Of recent the street children face an avalanche of problems as indicated by a multiplicity of scholars and the study about these children has generated much interest. The problems they face fall in the categories of psychological, physical and sexual abuse and in the past, they were not given the desired attention. They abuse drug and alcohol and commit crimes. In an endeavour to assess the diversity of livelihood options encountered by street children, the available findings point to three categories of street children namely street beggars, street daily labourers, and street vendors. It is difficult to locate them as they travel

from place to another. As time continues to evolve, circumstances change and the issue of these children persists.

1.1.1. Street children in the world

According to the UNICEF report (2012) on-street children, there is an estimated 150 million children globally who derive their livelihood from the streets. Among them, 30 million are found in Africa. Subsequently, the biggest number is found in developing countries. There is a consensus in the body of literature that the living conditions of the street children disproportionately expose them to gross abuse compared to other children. This has made street children a peculiar vulnerable group attracting special consideration from both governmental and non-governmental agencies across the world. Even though they are victims of all kinds of abuse, they still have rights as they are the progenies of our shared world, and their ages is ranging from three to eighteen.

1.1.2. Street children in Africa

It is indicated in the report on the urban management program, due to rapid urbanization in sub-Sahara Africa, the problem of street children is currently a new phenomenon (UN- Habitat report, 2000). This results into an enormous challenge for the social urban and physical environment, particularly in terms of widespread poverty from the rapid urbanization process. Numerous of poor people are found in slums and informal settlements with congested, unhealthy houses and lack of basic services.

For instance, the case of Ethiopia, according to Parbati (2013), “.....*the majority of children that are child workers are found on the street as they contribute economically to their household. Most of them are still in close contact with their families. Equally, the situation of the street children in Kenya closely echoes that of Ethiopia. The majority of children visible on the streets are boys, but the number of female street children is too increasing rapidly.*”

1.1.3. Street children in Rwanda

In Rwanda, it is noticeable that the phenomenon of street children exists. Some causes and contributing factors to street children, as highlighted in the NCC assessment report (2019), are various and ranging from interconnected factors that push or pull a child to cut partially or permanently ties with his/her family. It was shocking to realized that most of these factors are grounded in the family, the place where children are not only born, but also raised, cared for, educated and even disciplined. Those factors are poverty, family conflict, divorce and separation of parents, maltreatment by parents, etc...

One of family grounded cause of street children is poverty. In case families are not able to satisfy the basic needs of their children, such as food, clothing, health care, education, etc... the children flee home to get economic opportunities hoping to sustain their subsistence and contributing to family income (NCC, 2012), possibly with the implicit permission of their parents. In other cases, some parents leave their children uncared because of poverty and move to a place where they can earn income for a long period. Then, children may, in the meantime, drop out schools and decide to leave their home and go to the street to meet their basic needs (UNICEF, 2007). Assumed the idea that poverty is a significant major factor in children's decision to go to street life, one can wonder whether most street children belong to the population groups that are hit by poverty.

Another family grounded cause of street children is divorce or separation of parents.

Patrick F. Fagan and Churchill, A. (2012) noted that divorce or separation of parents, is the factor which erodes and weakens family ability and readiness to work together to raise their children. Its consequences are lack of parental support, care, attention or supervision toward children. Their children are reported to be shaken by self-doubt, uncertainty and confusion since they lack support and care in the home, and have difficulties in the new home, or at the hands of stepparents, they may easily run away from home, show poor school performance, exhibit depression or have problems with the law.

Also the death of parents is another family grounded cause of street children. From this perspective, the fact of not having one of the parents or both, due to various reasons like illness, accidents, or other calamities lead children to a traumatic life experience which is harmful to

the future of children and sometimes pushes them to end up to the street (NCC,2012).

Another family grounded cause is known as negligence and/or maltreatment by parents. It is observed that when children are maltreated or neglected by parents or guardians who are careless, irresponsible, addicted or alcoholic, they end up seeking a safer place than home and retreat to the street (NCC, 2012).

Other factors are non-family based causes such as peer pressure and it happens when children join the street as a consequence of seeking freedom or following peer influence. These street children are sometimes pulled by other kids on life of the streets (NCC, 2012).

1.1.4. Street Children and Marital Conflict

Amongst family grounded causes of street children, one can mention the phenomenon of marital conflict which manifests itself differently in aggression, spouse battering, insults, adultery, sexual abuse etc (Osarenren, 2013).

Tiruwork (2015) Meaza (2014), conducted researches in Ethiopia and they realized that *several major sources of marital conflict are violent behaviours of husbands, lack of cooperation in the family, inability to spend enough time together, issues related to children and other families, lack of effective communication, and financial problems. Also, some personal traits, commitment, and family background were highlighted as the most substantial factors related to conflicts in marriages.*

According to Grych and Fincham (1990), several scholars found marital conflict are connected to family issues such as poorer parenting, poorer child adjustment. Cummings & Davies 1994 highlighted that “*Aspects of marital conflict have a particularly negative influence on children that include more frequent, intense, physical, unresolved, child-related conflicts and conflicts attributed to the child’s behavior* “. The connecting these marital conflicts to the status of children need much attention. Such marital conflicts can have devastating effects on family and may lead children to live on the street.

In Rwanda, Nyarugenge district has ranked as the first district of origin for the high number of street children (17.3% of street children), but also the first district of residence of street

children with 359 out of 1087 street children (i.e 33.03%) in 2012 (NCC, 2012). According to NCC assessment report (2019), street children totalling 2,882 were identified, boys equivalent to 91% whereas girls were 9%; those found in the streets were 1,915 or 66.5% while remaining others equivalent to 33.5% were in street children centers and transit centers. In 2020, MIGEPROF reported that the street children were rescued from the street and taken to rehabilitation centers to ensure that they were reintegrated in their families or relatives, or sent to rehabilitations centers for re-education to gain life skills. From 2017 to 2019, the Kigali Transit Center screened and reunited 1,261 children with their families, whereas 2,564 were transferred to Gitagata Rehabilitation Center as well as to 18 other private rehabilitation facilities in the country managed by civil society or faith-based organizations. But do we understand the correlation between marital conflict and street children in this particular context? Thus, this research will examine the extent to which marital conflict factors push children away from their home to the street.

1.2. Problem statement

There is a rich theoretical literature on the family conflicts and street children. The consequences of marital conflict on children's trajectories are well documented. Over the recent years, many researches have gradually focused on revealing the particular responses and patterns grounded in specific contexts, that account for children's outcomes over time (Cummings and Davies, 1996). Despite the recognition that in Rwanda the possibility of marital conflict may be a potential cause to street children, there is scant research about the correlation between the two. This is not to say that there is no research at all about the issue. In the contrary, research exists on the link between juvenile delinquency and marital conflict. However, its empirical coverage is narrow, either the qualities of its respondents, as it is limited for example to psycho-social and medical professionals (Mukashema and Sapford, 2012). Some others that are too broad have investigated the general causes (NCC, 2012), even focusing on psychological factors (Kayiranga & Mukashema, 2013). While these studies have importantly advanced our understanding of the problem, they have raised even more questions about the issue. Although the problem of street children is a global phenomenon, identifying its whys and wherefores in a particular context is crucial in finding a permanent solution to the problem. Specifically, this research intends to address the gap in knowledge about the link between the persistent phenomenon of street children and marital conflicts in Nyarugenge district, Kimisagara sector.

1.1. Research Purpose and Objectives

General Objective:

This research aims at analysing the extent to which marital conflict factors contribute to street children in Rwanda.

Specific objectives:

- a) To examine the extent to which marital conflict leads children to street in Nyarugenge District
- b) To identify other factors that contribute to street children in Nyarugenge District.
- c) To suggest measures and strategies to overcome the issue of street children.

1.2. Research Questions

General research question

To what extent does marital conflict factors contribute to street children in Rwanda?

Specific questions

- a) To what extent does marital conflict contribute to street children in Nyarugenge, specifically in Kimisagara Sector?
- b) What are other factors that contribute to street children in Nyarugenge District?
- c) What are the strategies to be taken in order to curb the trend of street children?

1.3. Research Significance

The problem of street children should not be ignored by any person in Rwanda. This calls for rapid and responsive intervention to the Government of Rwanda, parents, and the community.

1.3.1. Significance for the Government of Rwanda

Responding to the problem of street children in Rwanda, requires sound and correct interventions, good policy enactment and timely implementation. The top management in the Ministries of Gender and Family Promotion and Local Government as well as Rwanda National Police may use the findings from the current research on factors influencing children to be on the street. Those findings help a top manager to plan and implement a well-coordinated program to reach street children in a manner that merits their needs.

1.3.2. Significance for the parents

The situations in which parents handle their marital conflict and manage their children make children more vulnerable and victims of negative peer influences. For this, the current research is to recall parents to be active and participative in promoting the well-being of their children and make them grow at home not on the street.

1.3.3. Significance for Rwandan Society

The whole Rwandan Community needs to be sensitized to the reality of street children. Then, the goal of society is to protect their children and provide them with the basic needs for their life.

1.3.4. Significance for future researchers

From this research, future researchers may get basic information on street children.

1.4. Scope and limitation of the study

This study was conducted in the City of Kigali specifically in the Nyarugenge district, because it was in the city centre where the rate of street children was expected to be higher than in other areas of Rwanda. Results from the District self-assessment showed major challenges faced in different sectors, including a large number of street children and other vulnerable people (Nyarugenge report, 2018). This study only addresses marital conflicts with street children in an endeavour to understand the significant impact marital conflicts hold in explaining the phenomenon of street children in Rwanda.

This study was having a short time frame to be conducted and hence was only conducted in Nyarugenge District (Kimisagara Sector) where the respondents were selected through purposive sampling among those believed to have a clear knowledge of the subject matter. The case study is known to the researcher who has been observing the problem of street children in the area. Most still, due to the profession of the researcher, the desire to indulge in this study helped to get empowered with more strategies for handling the problem.

1.5. Structure of Study

The study comprises five chapters namely chapter one which deals with the general introduction, the background to the study, the problem statement, the research objectives, research questions, the significance of the study and the structure of the study. It proceeds to chapter two which deals with the literature review by detailing the contribution of various scholars to the study being undertaken, then chapter three which deals with methodology, the research design, the population, tools of data collection and the way data will be analysed. It continues with chapter four by presenting, interpreting and analysing the collected data then and lastly chapter five which concerns a summary of findings, conclusion and possible recommendations from the study.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter deals with academic research on the intersection of marital conflict and street children. It focuses on analyzing the existing research in this regard, concepts and definitions, debated questions, gaps in knowledge and reasons for this research. For this purpose, this chapter is divided into the following sub-headings: definitions of key concepts, the problems facing marital conflicts' children, marital conflict factors contributing to street children, conceptual framework and related theory,

2.1. Definition of key concepts

2.1.1. The concept of conflict

According to Webster Dictionary (1995), conflict is defined as: *..... a fight, battle, struggle, sharp disagreement, clash, opposition of interest, idea, etc... in other words, conflict connotes warfare, crisis, violence, and stress.*

From this definition, it is clear that conflicts typically happen in case two or more people believe that their interests, desires or aspirations can never or no longer achieved. This arrives in life and even among people, relatives, couples, family members, friends etc.

For Ezegebe (1997) conflict is viewed as a reciprocal hostility which is interpersonal or inter-human and can be verbal, emotional and even physical interaction depending on the nature of the conflict or conflictual parties.

Furthermore, Ogunna (1993) sees conflict as *..... a situation in which persons or groups disagree over means or ends and try to establish their views in preference to others. Here, conflict can emerge whenever two or more persons or groups seek to possess the same object, occupy the same space of the exclusive position, play incompatible roles, maintain goals or undertake mutually incompatible means for achieving their purposes.*

For Robbins (1978), conflict is viewed from administrative angle and referred it to all types of disagreement or antagonistic interaction caused by the scarcity of resources, power, or social position and this may predict violence, destruction, barbarism, and loss of civilized control and rationality.

Consequently, conflict may be seen as clashes of opinion. Though some people view conflict as unwelcome, it is important to note that in any unit, the rise of some sort of conflict is one of the most significant forces of change in the organization.

Based on this, Robins (1978) argued that: *..... conflict could be functional when it brings positive results. He observed that conflict is not necessarily a negative term, it has also its value to the organization. A functional conflict will then be that which represents confrontation, reaction opposition, or antagonistic interaction that benefits and or supports the goals of the organization. In other words, functional conflict is said to occur when the outcomes lead to improved effectiveness.*

In light with the preceding, conflict can be understood as an essential part of the process of change since it can be positive rather than negative in the development of any organization.

2.1.2. The concept of marital conflict

Before defining the concept of marital conflict, there is a need to understand the meaning of the institution of marriage.

The marriage is defined by Kottak (1991) as: *..... stabilized patterns of norms and roles associated with the mutual relationship between husband and wife. It joins together a man (or men) and a woman (or women) in a special kind of social and legal arrangement that serves several purposes for society. However, because marriage as an institution may differ in structure, function, dynamics, and meaning from one culture to another, no all-encompassing definition of marriage is possible.*

In almost all societies, marriage requires a legal contract (written or verbal), and this agreement varies depending on the degree to which it can be broken. In the present society, marriage institution has been affected by some problems which result from social changes and it seems that the impact of such changes is becoming more negative and severe on marriage.

For marital conflict, Nwoye (1991) refers it to the disagreements between marital partners over beliefs, values, mores, goals, and behaviours which make up the structure of the nuclear

family. In other words, marital conflict is a negative interaction in marriage. It can be verbal, physical or non-verbal, or both in which the husband and the wife aim to neutralize, harm, and dishonour each other.

In his research, Osarenren, (2013) realized that: *.....marital conflict comes in different forms like spouse battering, spousal abuse, sexual abuse, marital irresponsibility, incest, rape, subtle struggle for control between the couple and other abusive behaviours and is also caused by childlessness, forced marriage, incompatibility, communication gap, interference by in-laws, finances, infidelity, sex of children, lack of appreciation, etc.*

A marital conflict or instability in marriage can be seen as the failure of husband and wife to honour their role and obligations in marriage. This can be perceived as a disorganization and unstable marriage viewed as a problem-ridden. Marital conflict has constituted a serious threat to social and economic stability (Nnenna and Nweke, 1989).

From the research conducted in Ethiopia by Tiruwork (2015) and Meaza (2014), they recognised several major sources of marital conflict such as: *..... violent behaviours of husbands, lack of cooperation in the family, inability to spend enough time together, issues related to children and other families, lack of effective communication, and financial problems. Also, some personal traits, communication skills, commitment, and family background were highlighted as the most significant factors related to conflicts in marriages.*

According to Bornstein (2016) studies in marital conflict demonstrated that much explicit conflicts are effects of some underlying rigidity in an area of behaviour than the one in which the open conflict is manifested.

Concerning this issue, according to Goeke M and Cummings (2003): *... the marital conflict has been classified into two categories: constructive and destructive. When parents handle conflicts in positive ways by displaying behaviours, such as verbal and physical affection, problem- solving and support, the conflict is said to be constructive. They continue saying that conflicts that are hostile, and angry and contain conflict tactics, such as*

physical aggression, verbal aggression, threat, and personal insult, can be described as destructive.

As a matter of consequences, in Rwanda, marital conflicts are source of divorce as provided for by the Rwandan Law governing persons and family (2016) in its article 218, whereby it is stipulated that “*any of the spouses may apply for divorce on one of the following grounds: adultery; excess, abuse or serious insults by one towards another; gender-based violence etc...*”. In the same vein, statistics in Rwanda, have shown that the number of people seeking divorce has radically increased over the years. In 2016 the cases for divorce were recorded 21, in 2017 there were 69 and in 2018 they became 1,311 cases. Kicukiro Primary Court recorded many divorce certificates compared to other districts, with at least 201 families. And Gasabo Primary Court issued 190, whereas Nyarugenge Primary Court issued 157 divorce certificates (Mbabazi D, 2018).

In general, misunderstanding between family members, especially between the father and mother, can lead to family disequilibrium and can affect the mental health of the children, as well as it negatively affects their adult health (Borst, & Jacob, B. (2015), Dihn et al. 2017).

2.1.3. Concept of street children

As per UNICEF (2001) definition, a street child is: “*any boy or girl who has not reached adulthood, and for whom the street has become her or his habitual abode and /or source of livelihood, and hence he/she is inadequately protected, supervised or directed by responsible adults*”.

From the preceding definition, it is clear that a street child is the one who leaves home to go and stay on the street and hence the street not only becomes his or her home but also the source of living. This child takes full responsibility of his/her own life. Further those street children are seen as either ‘of the street’ or ‘on the street’.

Children 'of the street' live and sleep on the streets in urban areas and the streets are their homes whereas children 'on the street' have their homes and only come to the streets to beg for money during the day and return home in the evening. The former group has no contact with family while the latter lives with the family (Chireshe, Jadezwi, Cekiso, et al. 2014).

According to the UNICEF report (2012), there is an estimated 150 million children globally who derive their livelihood from the streets. Subsequently, the biggest number is found in developing countries. There is a consensus in the body of literature that the living conditions of the street children disproportionately expose them to gross abuse compared to other children. This has made street children a peculiar vulnerable group attracting special consideration of governmental and non-governmental agencies over the world. In the report on the urban management program, UN-Habitat (2000) showed that due to rapid urbanization, the problem of street children is currently new in sub-Saharan Africa.

The phenomenon of street children in the world is not only is a social problem but also an economic one. This situation poses enormous defies for the urban social and physical environment. Due to urbanization, many of the urban poor people live in slums and informal settlements exacerbate the issue of street children.

2.2. Problems facing marital conflicts' children

Different scholars explained the problems that are facing marital conflicts' children in the following arguments:

According to Habiba (1999) family conflict produces a home environment where children live in constant fear. Mulholland et al. (1999), further emphasized that: *children exposed to family conflicts are more likely to grow social, emotional, psychological and behavioural problems than those who are not.*

For Rodgers and Rose (2001), it was established that: *most children from homes where parental abuse is prevalent suffer irreversible damage in some or all aspects of their development, which can be difficult to reverse.*

In the views of Hetherington (1999), he explained that: *problems among children who have witnessed assaults of one parent by another in the home include psychological and emotional ones such as aggression, hostility, anxiety, social withdrawal and depression.*

In his study, Emery (1998) suggests that: *children's exposure to adult domestic violence may generate attitudes justifying their use of force.*

Cherlin's (2009) findings support this association by showing that: *adolescent boys incarcerated for violent crimes who had been exposed to*

family violence believed more than others that acting aggressively to enhance one's reputation or self-image. Boys and girls appear to differ in what they learn from these experiences. For example, witnessing violence as a child was associated with adult reports of depression, trauma-related symptoms and low self-esteem among women. There were also trauma-related symptoms among men.

From the previous, it is shown that witnessing violence among parents appeared to be independent of the various cases accounted for by the existence of parental alcohol abuse and divorce (Bryan and Devault, 1999).

The studies conducted by Allison (2009), Amato and Keith (2000), Baker and Dryden (1999), and Kelly (2000) demonstrated that: persistent conflicts among parents are perceived by the children as a threat to their harmony and stability of being separated from attachment figures and it is a very distressing experience to children. Hence, children who witnessed parents' conflicts at their home feel anxious, confused and helpless. These marital conflicts, as observation showed, disrupt the parent-child intimacy and affect the children's view of the world, of themselves, their idea about the meaning and purpose of life, their expectations for future happiness and their moral development.

It was realized that marital conflict can create serious instability and insecurity in a child.

For Macky (2017) citing Crissoner (2007), he explained that.... parental conflicts cause young children to suffer permanent irreversible cognitive and emotional damages. These damages suffered by children in early life expresses itself later in adolescence, when these embarrassed and neglected children are expelled from their natal families, they join young gangs and delinquent youth groups, commit street crimes and engage in alcoholism, drug abuse and teen pregnancies.

Following the above findings, it is understandable that children who witness violence among parents tend to suffer social, emotional, psychological and behavioural problems and develop anti-social behaviours.

2.3. Marital conflict factors contributing to street children

To understand marital conflict factors that contribute to lead children to the street, the following arguments can make it clear.

According to Emery et al. (1982), it is shown that.... when children are faced with destructive marital conflict, they are at risk of developing adjustment problems like aggression, delinquency, and conduct disorders commonly considered as externalizing disorders, whereas anxiety, depression, and withdrawal are types of internalizing disorders that are associated with marital conflict.

Another point that may lead them to the street, in the views of Goodman et al. (1999) found that*as children have a higher order goal of wanting to feel safe and secure in their family, a marital conflict that threatens that goal has a different effect than a marital conflict not threatening emotional security.*

In this manner marital conflict is classified into two types: constructive marital conflict and destructive marital conflict.

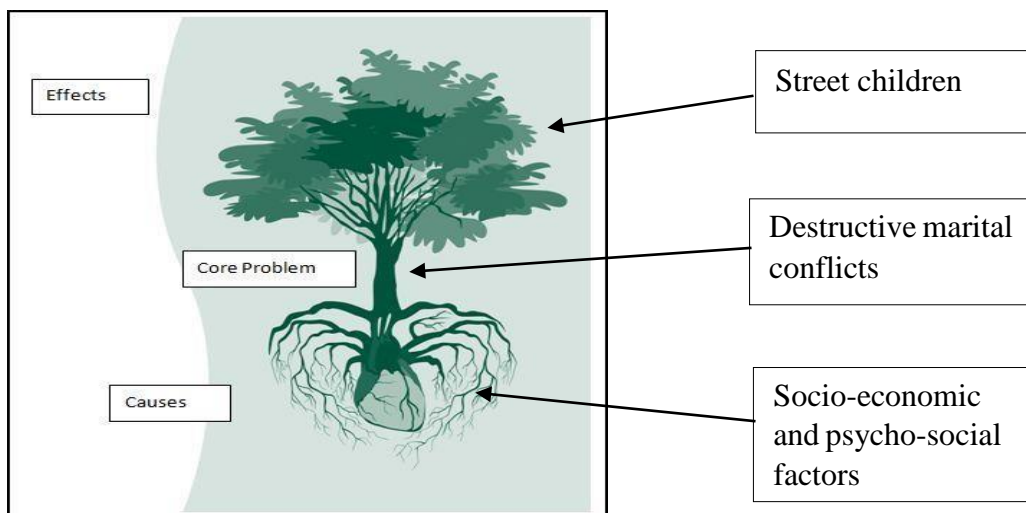
On one side, according to Goeke-Morey et al. (2003), the marital conflict is said constructive: *when parents handle conflicts in positive ways by displaying behaviours, such as verbal and physical affection, problem-solving and support. So, this kind of conflict helps preserve children's security by increasing their confidence that any difficulties between their parents will be managed in a way that maintains family harmony.* Thus, children are likely to regulate their exposure to this type of conflict situation by intervening or getting directly involved in the dispute (Cummings and Davies, 1996). For Grych and Fincham (1990), this constructive conflict similarly reduces the probability of children having aggressive tendencies and may aid children in the development of their problem solving, coping, and conflict resolution abilities

On the other side, there is destructive marital conflicts which are conflicts that are hostile, containing conflict tactics, by using physical aggression, verbal aggression, threat, and personal insult etc. For this kind of conflict, children's emotional security becomes disrupted because their internal goals about their family are disrupted and are more likely to become emotionally distraught.

As per arguments from Carlson and Corcoran, (2001),*destructive marital conflict increases children's risk for adjustment disorders, such as pushing children to live on the street, whereas constructive conflict may reduce it. The destructive marital conflict leads to lower parenting supervision since stressors and preoccupations diminish parenting time, skills, expressed affection, and supervision while increasing parenting instability, harshness, or yet permissiveness Many become less able to shelter their children from stressors and dangers; others abdicate their parental responsibilities. Adolescents then lack guidance and authoritative parenting. In contrast, a good home environment, including adequate parenting, reduces or eliminates the potentially negative effects of marital conflict.*

The following figure 1 of Conflict Tree Model, summarizes the way destructive marital conflicts contribute to lead children to live on the streets:

Figure 1: Conflict Tree Model



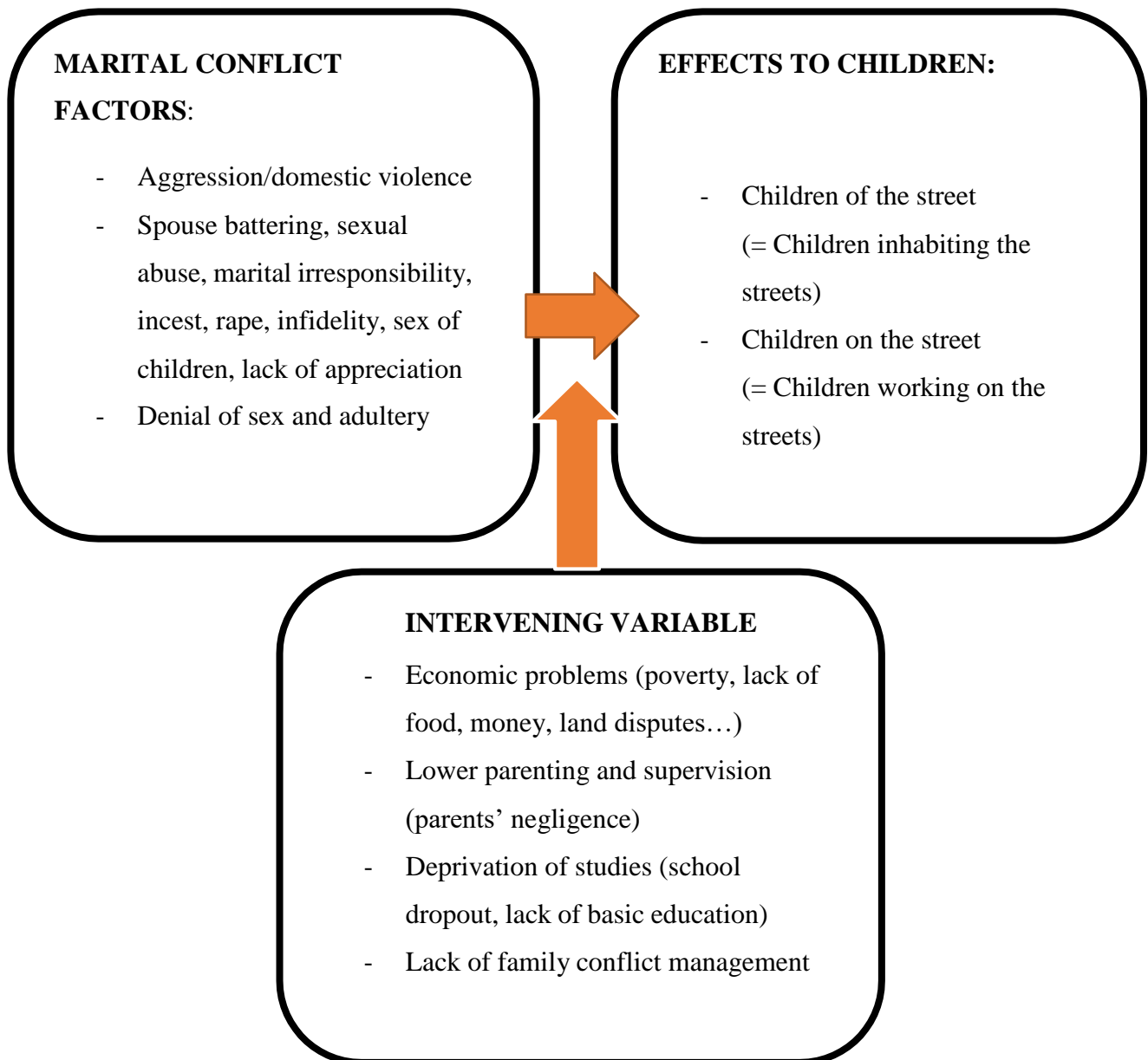
Source: *The researcher's construct*

The above conflict tree model figure 1, helps to analyse the core problem, its causes and its effects. The trunk represents the core problems that are destructive marital conflicts having the roots causes in socio-economic and psycho-social factors and branches which are effects representing street children. In other words, when socio-economic and psycho-social factors are not well managed in the family, they produce disagreements or dissensions in the institution of marriage which affect negatively on children and may lead them to live on the street.

2.4. Conceptual framework

This research involves two variables: marital conflict as independent variable and street children which is dependent variable. In order to elaborate more on the correlation between the two variables, the following diagram briefly presents the conceptual framework that guided the researcher to understand the link.

Figure 2: Conceptual Framework



Source: The researcher's construct

The conceptual framework, as represented in figure 2, explains the relationship between the causes of marital conflicts which are displayed in form of aggression/domestic violence, spouse battering, denial of sex and adultery, etc as independent variable and the effects of marital conflicts leading children to be of the street or on the street as dependent variable. It explains how the causes of marital conflicts affect the life of children.

For instance, as commented by Dickson (2018),*in case there is intense family conflicts disagreements and misunderstanding between couples, partners' negativity, criticism and defensiveness emotional break out parental care diminution; the welfare of children may be affected whereby they may be disturbed emotionally, their social integration with peers may be damaged; children may lose self-concept and self-esteem decreased; some of these children will have their cognitive capacity decreased and there will be child custody affected, the reason why those children end up going to live on the street.*

Also, the conceptual framework indicates intervention from economic problems (poverty, lack of food, money, land disputes...), lower parenting and supervision (parents' negligence), deprivation of studies (school dropout, lack of basic education), lack of family conflict management, as intervening variable. This means that if these variables are managed well and lived positively; they can help couples to build good and family relationships which may prevent marital conflicts that occur from time to time. But when these intervening variables are not well managed they provoke conflict in families and sometimes these conflicts affect the life of children.

2.5. Theory explaining the effects of family conflicts on children

The theory explaining the correlation of family conflicts and children is the Emotional Security Theory.

According to Ndushabandi, E et. al. 2016 citing Cummings and Davies (2002), *the Emotional Security Theory serves as a framework for understanding family conflict implications for children and it provides a main theoretical foundation from which to build prevention or intervention approaches. The Emotional Security Theory holds that the children's sense of protection, safety, and security in their parent's relationship and the family as*

*a whole is related to their well-being and adjustment over time.
Negative family conflicts have the potential to undermine child and
family well-being and adjustment.*

Furthermore, the research of Ndushabandi, E et al. (2016) citing Cummings and Davies (2002), found that: ... *parental conflict contributes to an increase in destructive inter-parental conflict behaviours which affect the children in their development. For instance, homes characterized by inter-parental aggression are strongly associated with child maltreatment.*

From this theory, it is clear to note that marital conflict undermines wellbeing and adjustment of children and contributes mainly to push them to quit their home and end up on the street.

2.6. Transforming marital conflict to mitigate the problem of street children

As indicated by United Nations, juvenile delinquency is not necessarily caused by abrupt urbanization and poverty but the unstable adult-child relationships commonly known as family relationships. Even though, poverty, injustice, inequality, human deprivation and impoverishment remain challenges in the roadmap to strengthen families, the problem of street children can be curtailed when parents and guardians wake up and access their children to a favourable environment short of neglect, violence and abuse and avoid exploiting their children. The interplay between parents, schools, community and government as stakeholders will inevitably be a source of feasible solutions to the situation of street children (Kopoka, 2000).

Thus, it is important to note that the protection of the institution of the marriage from destructive marital conflict can impact positively on all government policies related to mitigate the occurrence of street children.

2.7. Conclusion to chapter two

The literature review has indicated the correlation between marital conflict and street children. The phenomenon of street children was analysed in terms of its underlying psycho-social factors. As the causes have been expounded well in this literature review, the issue of street children need to be tackled and mitigated. It is therefore clear to say that the stakeholders involving government, non-government agencies and the community in general need to collaborate in a synergy to curb this phenomenon of street children by addressing marital conflict.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

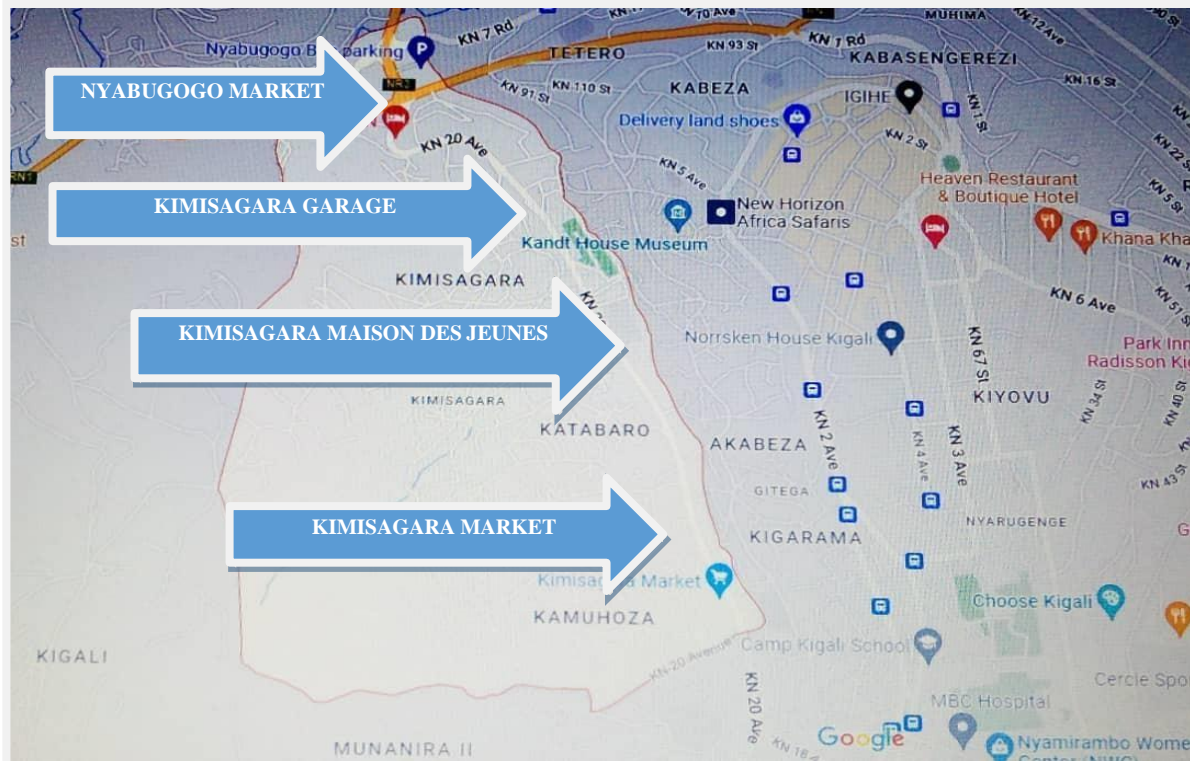
3.0 Introduction

This chapter underlines the methods that were used to collect relevant data for this study that supported the achievements of the objectives of the study, the research design that was selected to provide a framework for this study, and the proposed population from which a sample was developed. It also highlights how the research was handled throughout the study delimiting itself to the study area. This chapter further shows how data were interpreted and analyzed in the framework of ethical considerations and further demonstrates the merits and demerits of all tools selected so that the reader is given a hint of what was expected from this study.

3.1. Research Area

The study was conducted in Nyarugenge District specifically in the Kimisagara Sector which is the area where the number of street children was expected to be more visible. Therefore, it was suitable to be taken as a case of study as the findings were deemed to provide a clear representation of the population selected. Secondly, this area was suitable for the researcher to map reliable respondents that were targeted in the population and travelling in gathering the data. The following is figure 3 that represents the map of Kimisagara Sector.

Figure 3: Map of Kimisagara Sector



Source: Google map (2022)

3.2. Research design

The research design of this study followed a similar approach given by Golfashini (2003) who defines the research design as an investigation to discover new facts and get additional information. Research design is a strategy used to respond to a researcher's question(s), whereas a research method is a method to use for implementing that strategy. Research design and methods differ but remain closely interrelated, given the fact that a good research design makes sure that the data obtained by the researcher help to respond effectively to the questions that the researcher formulates (Farooq, 2019).

The researcher in this study used a descriptive research design with a mixed approach as the method to collect the information from participants. That is to mean, a quantitative approach was used for collecting the information from respondents by using questionnaires; while qualitative approach was used to collect information from key informants through an interview guide.

3.3. Data collection techniques

In order to collect data in this study, different techniques such as documentary analysis and in-depth interviews were used. The data were collected through interviewing face to face with 50 respondents. As all interviewees are Rwandese, the Kinyarwanda language was used during the interview. Children were encouraged to tell their stories about challenges encountered on the street, their educational level and their willingness to return to foster families. To get consistent information from a group of street children, time was needed to get their trust and all discussions were recorded, copied and translated into the English language for being reported in this research. For scientific information about street children, library research was used.

3.4. Methods of data collection

During data collection, the researcher adopted both secondary and primary data collection methods. This gave the study leverage in understanding the topic of study and in-process obtain reliable information from different sources.

3.4.1. Primary data sources

This data is collected by the researcher for the first time and its originality is not questioned and it can also mean data gathered by the researcher for his/her current project. This is first-hand information about certain events and the chances of reliability are so high; primary data is the commencement of certain disciplines and it is a reliable source of opinions, personal qualities and attitudes (Bryman, 2012). Therefore, the researcher used primary sources to obtain reliable and empirical data for this study through several tools that were explained later.

3.4.1.1. Focused Group Discussions

A focus group discussion is an important tool in data qualitative research that combines a group of people between 6-12 to undertake a study while eliciting the respondents' perspectives, attitudes, opinions, beliefs, about a concept or idea. The questions were asked in interactive group sessions and participants were at liberty to express them the way they want, provided they remain on what concerns the study. Focus groups were conducted between one to two hours and the moderator guides the discussion through open-ended questions. According to Bryman, (2012) Focused Group Discussions are very useful to obtain comprehensive information in a short time and very relevant to studies that are earmarked for a short time. In this study, they helped children found in the street and who couldn't be available to the researcher for a longer time.

3.4.1.2. Questionnaire

The researcher used a self-administered questionnaire to reach the respondents who were not easily accessible and the researcher couldn't manage to enforce the standard operating procedures while collecting data. They helped as sufficient data were gathered in a relatively short period.

3.4.1.3. Interview

This method was used by the researcher and it means a consistent and organized conversation between the researcher and the respondent to gather relevant data on the study. The researcher takes note of the gestures, facial attitudes, and the environment of the informant. An interview is a mode of obtaining verbal answers to questions through a face-to-face arrangement. Interviews may be structured following a chronological order or unstructured without an order of questions being asked. It is not necessarily for one respondent but can be a group of persons. The gathered information is recorded by the investigator and it must be interactive and flexible (Bryaman, 2012).

3.4.2. Secondary Sources of data

This is data that has already been gathered by another researcher and is greatly connected to the study being undertaken. The sources include textbooks, journals, manuscripts, diaries, and letters among others and are secondary sources because they were written for a different purpose, not the current study. It is significant to note that someone's primary data can be termed secondary data by someone else (Bryman, 2012). This secondary data is important for the researcher to gain insights from several scholars who researched the subject or those on similar subjects to the study. They help much in the literature review and support the study to achieve its objectives.

3.5. Research population

A population is described as all the people or items with all features of what the researcher wants to study. It may be a person, group, organization, country, object or any other entity which the research desires to induce scientific inferences. Sometimes the target population

presents challenges to understand but the researcher should know the study so that selection of the rightful population is done well (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

The researcher selected a population from district officials to include 4 respondents, Kigali Transit Centre staff 3 respondents, Local leaders and law enforcements at Kimisagara Sector 3 respondents, and 30 street children from Kimisagara Sector who formed 2 FGDs, 10 respondents from Members of Community participants in '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*' and volunteers of '*Incuti z'Umuryango*'. They were selected because they met the street children in their day-to-day routine duties. The total targeted population was 50 expected respondents.

In the case of this present research, the opportunity sampling was the children aged below 18 who spent most of their life on the street. The researcher went to all places in Kimisagara Sector where children are known to live like market places, garages. The researcher also requested children found at the places to bring their friends for the interview.

3.5.1. Sampling

Sampling is defined as the procedure of arriving at a sample of a population that has motivated the research to draw observations and statistical inferences about the population. Social science research is hinged on deducing patterns of behaviour in a particular population. It is hard to study the whole population as it may not be cost-friendly and achievable which entices the researcher to select a sample from the population of interest for observation and analysis. Choosing a sample that represents a particular population is always a tall order to obtain reliable findings that represent the entire population (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

3.5.2. Sampling frame

This is a section of the population usually a list with contact information from which the sample can be deduced. However, the sampling frame may not provide a distinct picture of the entire population but inferences obtained from the sample may not be generalized to the population. For example, in a population of professional employees who are not easy to come by the world over, it would be prudent to design a sampling frame comprising employee lists of one or more companies that are motivated to involve themselves in the study (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

The sample size needs to represent the number of respondents that participate in the study. In this research, the sample was composed by 50 respondents selected from district officials to

include 4 respondents, Kigali Transit Centre staff 3 respondents, Local leaders and law enforcements at Kimisagara Sector 3 respondents, and 30 street children from Kimisagara Sector who formed 2 FGDs, 10 respondents from Members of Community participants in '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*' and volunteers of '*Incuti z'Umuryango*'. The choice of respondents focused on the suggestion of Morse (1994) who illustrated that a sample of 30-50 respondents is quite relative for interviews.

The selected respondents were zeroed for their knowledge and availability at the time when the researcher was collecting data and the judgment of the respondents depending on the experience gathered throughout the professional career.

3.5.3. Purposive sampling

The researcher used non-probability sampling or purposive sampling because the researcher believes it was more suitable for this qualitative design. This type of sampling provided reliable empirical data. Purposive sampling concentrates much on those subjects whom the researcher believes through sound judgement have more relevancies to the study and have more knowledge of the study being undertaken (Kelly, 2011). In this case, 50 respondents were selected using maximum variation sampling used commonly in purposive sampling.

3.5.4. Snowball sampling

Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling method where currently enrolled research participants help to find future subjects for a study. It is used when the research question concerns a particular population whose members are difficult to locate (Mugume, 2021). The researcher made initial contact with a small group of street children who were relevant to the research topic and then used these to establish contacts with others.

3.6. Qualitative Data Analysis

The researcher, after gathering and interpreting the data from the questionnaires, focus groups and interview sessions, subjected the data to the relevant analysis of data applicable for the qualitative research. In the social context, collected data were analysed so that "sense- making" could be the result instead of guessing. A creative and investigative mind-set was adjacent in undertaking this qualitative analysis (Bhattacharjee, 2012). Data analysis is important in getting meaning of findings from the field so that new knowledge can be brought on board. However, for more analysis of the qualitative data, a thematic approach to a comparative analysis was

very significant.

3.6.1. Thematic analysis

It has been argued that thematic comparative analysis should be a foundation for qualitative analysis as it brings on board more skills as opposed to other forms of analysing qualitative data. This grouping of themes helped the researcher to come up with a clear comparative analysis that can be read and grasped by readers (Lorelli, et al. 2017). The researcher adopted a thematic approach to compare data from the field so that the findings followed a certain order and it was suitable in bringing out the findings.

3.6.2. Data analysis procedures

The data were collected and audio recorded in the Kinyarwanda language, translated into English language and manually analysed. Some of the following procedures were taken by computer programs:

- a. **Editing:** In this step, the researcher reviewed the data recorded from the field to ensure all records were properly done and to see if the interview guide had been properly followed and if any questions –the guide has been forgotten during the in- depth interview. Its purpose is to make ready information gained to be analysed by the computer software (Sonquist and Dunkelberg, 1977).
- b. **Coding:** In this step, data were classified in one coding matrix and every participant was given a code for keeping participants anonymous. Every response from each respondent to each question was systematically recorded.
- c. **Classification:** According to Kothari C (1990), during the classification of the data, the large volume of raw data is reduced to inhomogeneous groups to get meaningful relationships. This step helped the researcher to classify and categorize data into forms, perceptions and experiences of the participants.

3.7. Ethical considerations

Rendering the study ethics and keeping anonymity and confidentiality of respondents, within the rights to self-determination of the researcher were observed. To avoid the use of names, the researcher used the numbering from 1 to 15. The respondents were also made aware that participation in the study did not warrant any gift, monetary or otherwise. However, they were informed that the research findings would be used by the stakeholders and policymakers for the betterment of the education system.

3.8. Limitations of mitigation strategies

This research concerns marital conflicts and street children a case study of Nyarugenge District. It was carried out in the Nyarugenge District specifically in the Kimisagara Sector which was chosen because of its accessibility of data to the researcher in terms of accuracy. The research focused on a small number of street children, parents and public officials who showed willingness for interviews. As a qualitative research on a small number of participants, the outcome cannot be generalized to the other areas of Rwanda, nonetheless, they can be drawn upon to inform similar studies in Rwanda and other areas. The researcher also faced time and resource constraints in carrying out this study.

3.9. Conclusion to chapter three

The literature review about methodology is giving insights into how this research was conducted. It has identified a suitable research design that gives a clear plan of how the research study was run smoothly. It gives also the tools that are more suitable for the study undertaken depending on the available time given for this study. The tools give hope that the study was analysed in better and relevant ways to the research design as identified and later hinted on the ethical considerations that are pertinent for the research findings to be declared credible.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0. Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presented, interpreted and analyzed the data mainly collected on the field from Kimisagara Sector in Nyarugenge District. The variables were analyzed case by case and represented using different methods of presentation mainly tables and figures. Each table and figure presented in this analysis button is associated with the brief of explanations in order to facilitate the reader to understand the meaning of the presentation. The discussion with the respondents began with background information of respondents and then focused on the factors influencing children to go to street, and finally reached to analysis of existing strategies.

4.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

A basic random sample of 50 respondents was selected to be interviewed. The sample contained 30 street children (specifically 20 boys and 10 girls) on one side. On the other side, the researcher has chosen 10 from local leaders, district officials and law enforcement officers, and other 10 from members composing *Umugoroba w'Imiryango* and *Incuti z'Umuryango*. The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents were the first aspect determined in this study. The details regarding this are indicated in diagrams below.

Table 1: Target population and gender of street children

Location/Sector	Population		Total
	Boys	Girls	
Kimisagara			
Total	20	10	30

Source: Primary data, March 2022

Among the basic random, 30 street children were selected to be interviewed, containing 20 boys and 10 girls who are constantly found in the streets of Kimisagara Sector. Researcher has chosen boys and girls in order to have a complete picture of boys' and girls' lives to ensure that the research's applications could be reflected to everyone. The demographic information on the targeted population, such as gender, age, origin, and educational background of the street children, marital and working status of parents, conflicts that are frequently found at their parents' home, their life experience in the street, and factors that pushed or pulled them to street.

The data on the target population that composed the sample of street children reveals that the significant majorities who have participated in the study are male children living on the street (20 boys) while female constituted a small proportion of the total (10 girls). In the consideration of percentages of sampled street children, it was realized that most of street children were boys (60%) while the number of girls (40%). This number gives the impression that the street girls are not often visible and it is difficult to trace them. Even if this number is appearing as small, the street girls are the most vulnerable among all street children.

Table 2: Target population of local leaders, district officials and law enforcement officers

Location	Number of respondents	Total
Nyarugenge District Level	4	4
Kimisagara Sector level	3	3
Kigali Transit Center	3	3

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The demographic information regarding official leaders and law enforcement officers helped the researcher to have a clear picture of the strategies put in place to handle the marital conflict in the family and how they implement policy regarding street children in their area of responsibility.

Table 3: Target population of participants in *Umugoroba w’Imiryango* and *Incuti z’Umuryango*

Location/Sector	Number of participants		Total
	<i>Umugoroba w’Imiryango</i> (UWI)	<i>Incuti z’Umuryango</i> (IZU)	
Kimisagara	5	5	10

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The information from the parents and participants in *Umugoroba w’Imiryango*, helped the researcher to get to know how marital conflicts are managed from being destructive to become constructive. Whereas the information collected from *Incuti z’Umuryango* helps to understand how street children are handled and returned to school.

4.1.1. Age of the street children respondents

The first element examined here is the distribution of age among the respondents. This

provides a general idea on the trend of age among street children in Kimisagara Sector. As it is shown on the table below, for the boys, the highest percentage age of street children was 14 while the lowest was 5 age; while for the girls, the highest percentage age of street children was 15 and the lowest was 6. From these above indicators, the researcher highlighted that the age 14 and 15 are the critical period by which children are in adolescence period and sometimes they are influenced by self-control and peer influence where it is expressed by being like to spend most of their time with friends.

Table 4: Age of respondents in Kimisagara Sector

Location (Sector)	Age group	Target Population			
		Frequency (boys)	Percentage	Frequency (girls)	Percentage
Kimisagara	5-9	08	40	4	40
	10-15	12	60	6	60
Total		20	100	10	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The figures and table above show us the distribution of ages of the respondents. The high percentages of ages were ranged between 10 and 15 years. Even though they are children, they consented to respond to the researcher's interview through intermediary of 'Incuti z'Umuryango', with whom they were familiar. This can be explained that the age of 10-15 is a critical/crisis period for majority of youth where they claim their freedom and refuse to be under control with their parents.

4.1.2. Typology of Street Children

Table 5: Typology of Street children

Sex	Children inhabiting on the Street	Children working on street	Children of street families
Boys	10	4	6
Girls	4	2	4
Frequency	14	6	10
Percentage	46.6	20	33.4

Source: Primary data, March 2022

From the above table, the researcher realized that 46.6% of street children are the ones that inhabit in the street. It means that they fled their parents' home and do not want to return there. It is visible even when anyone wants to approach them, they are not in position to return home.

4.1.3. Origin of the street children

Table 6: Distribution of origin of the street children

Location (Sector)	Origin of the street children	Responses			
		Frequency (boys)	Percentage	Frequency (girls)	Percentage
Kimisagara	Gasabo	4	20	2	20
	Huye	1	5	3	30
	Kayonza	2	10	1	10
	Ngororero	1	5	-	-
	Nyanza	2	10	-	-
	Nyarugenge	8	40	4	40
	Rusizi	2	10	-	-
Total		20	100	10	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The data collected from a sample of 30 street children in Kimisagara Sector as a study area show that the respondents found in the street were coming from: Nyarugenge, Gasabo, Rusizi, Nyanza, Huye, Ngororero and Kayonza Districts. For boys, the demographic information on places of origin indicated that the highest number (60%) of the sample came from urban areas, (Nyarugenge and Gasabo Districts) whereas 40% of the sample came from rural areas (Rusizi, Nyanza, Huye, Ngororero and Kayonza Districts). For the girls, the information on origin revealed that the highest number (60%) of the sample came from both urban and rural areas, (Nyarugenge and Gasabo Districts) whereas 40% of the sample came from rural areas (Kayonza and Huye Districts).

4.1.4. Education levels of the respondents

Table 7: Education levels of the sampled street children

Location	Education levels	Frequency		Frequency	
		Boys	Percentage	Girls	Percentage
Kimisagara	Not attended school	8	40	4	40
	Lower primary	10	50	3	30
	Upper primary	2	10	3	30
	TOTAL	20	100	10	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

Regarding to street children's education level, the responses obtained in relation to this topic revealed that for boys 50% of the respondents attended lower primary, 40% of them did not attend school while less of them 10% attended upper primary. For girls, 30% of respondents attended lower primary school, whereas 40% of respondents had not attended school, and 30% of respondents had attended upper primary education. This is clearly indicated that most of street children (40% girls) don't know to write and/or to read. This can be explained that the young girls are used early in domestic works who led them to be illiterate.

4.1.5. Marital status of street children's parents

Table 8: Marital status of street children's parents

Location (Sector)	Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Kimisagara	Has only one parent	7	23.3
	Parents live separately (divorce)	8	26.6
	All parents alive at home together	11	36.6
	No parent alive	2	6.6
	Don't know one of the parents (Bastard: a child who does not know her/his father). Not aware of their fathers	2	6.6
	TOTAL	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The researcher gathered responses on the status of the respondents' parents. On this question, it was realized that most of respondents 36.6% of respondent recognized parents and living together at home, (23.3%) have only one parent (especially mother). Other respondents (26.6%) said that their parent were divorced. Also, our question found out that in the street, there is orphans represented by 6.6% of respondents while a small number of street children (6.6%) do not know their parents.

In fact, the above information revealed that most of street children coming from the families which have a multiple problem such as families headed by single parent, separation of parent lead to be remarried of one of the parent, orphans lead to some children to head the rest of the family, or be educated by their grandmother/father, step mother or other family relatives.

The researcher realized that children having one parent and parental separation have negative effects on their wellbeing and face significant challenges. In this moment, children are less supervised and lack of communication with his/ her parents.

4.1.6. Occupations of street children's parents

Table 9: Occupations of respondents' parents

Location (Sector)	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Kimisagara	Non-employed	5	16.6
	Begging	4	13.3
	Hawking	10	33.3
	Famers	7	23.3
	Not aware because their parents are dead	2	6.6
	Motorcyclists	2	6.6
Total		30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

Data was gathered on the street children parents' in their way of earning a living. The following were responses: 16.6% respondents said that their parents are non- employed, the unemployment status of many parents were highlighted by the respondent and can be a sign of

poverty in a family. 13.3% respondents indicated that their parents depended from begging, 33.3% respondents had their mothers as hawkers, 23.3% respondents recognized that their parents are work in the farms, and then 6.6% respondents recognized that their parents are motorcyclists.

On this question, it is important to notify that some of these parents have migrated along with their children and stay on the pavements/street or their families have been on the pavements for a long period of time.

4.2. Factors leading children to go to street

4.2.1. Pushing factors related to parenthood status

Table 10: Factors related to parenthood status

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Parents' intake drugs	6	20
Neglected by parents	4	13.3
Absence of parents	5	16.6
Child as head of family	3	10
Single headed family	4	13.3
Extended family	2	6.6
Too much work	1	3.3
Being harassed	3	10
Pregnancy	2	6.6
Total	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

As it is shown on the above table, 20% respondents indicated that parents' intake drugs, child neglect and absence of parents are the leading factors to push children in the streets. Pregnancy also is a point on which the respondents (6.6%) revealed that it is a sore point to fear and that pushes girls to flee the house and find themselves in the street.

It is well observed that when children are told to do something without giving them a reason, they consider it as a dictatorship imposed to them. For instance, punishment is good for helping a child to learn and remember from their mistake but to beat or harass a child is not a solution. Children who receive corporal punishment or any level of abuse, mistreatment or neglect will grow up with negative behavior.

4.2.2. Pushing factors related to marital conflict

Table 11: Pushing factors related to marital conflict

Major causes of street children	Frequency	Percentage
Domestic violence (Aggression/domestic violence, spouse battering, spousal abuse, Domestic fights between spouses,...)	10	33.3
Sexual abuse (marital irresponsibility, incest, rape, infidelity, lack of appreciation, denial of sex and adultery,...)	8	26.6
Family disorganized (divorce, separation, living with step parent, parents' unknown)	4	13.3
Communication breakdown	2	6.6
Poverty of family (Economic/financial problems like poverty, lack of food, money, land disputes...)	6	20
Total	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

In the above table, the researcher finds different reasons relating to marital conflict provided by children when they decide to go to streets. Among them, domestic violence took 33.3%, family disorganized (divorce, separation, living with step parent, parents' unknown) took 26.6%, while communication breakdown 6.6% and poverty of family 20%. It was clearly shown that many children went to street because of family conflict and mainly marital conflict. Poverty of family also pushed children to go to the street to find food for the family.

Marital conflict related to domestic violence push children to go living in the street and don't even want to return home, whereas poverty of family push children to work on the street but return home, while disorganized family related conflict makes children to not even know their parents and homes and stay on the street.

4.2.3. Factors pulling children to go to street

Table 12: Preference for street by children

Location	Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Kimisagara Sector	To be in city	6	20
	To earn money	3	10
	Freedom	1	3.3
	Doing business	2	6.6
	Don't have nowhere to live	16	53.3
	Friendship	2	6.6
	Total	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

The research found out the attractive things that pulled children to street. These findings are the following: 20% respondents indicated that they like city life, 10% answered that in citylife they get money for survival, thus they were coming for looking for jobs in the city. Some of the respondents said that they saw their colleagues coming into the streets and could get money quickly and then decided to join them. Other 53.3% said they come to city because they don't have nowhere to live. While 3.3% of respondents needed self- reliance and freedom from their families. They came on the street with the hope of getting well- payingjob, and then the lowest respondents, 6.6% indicated that they came in the urban area for looking their friend. The interaction between street children and admired children cause the influence.

Table 13: Preference for the street children and gender based

Gender	To be in the city	To earn money	Freedom	Doing business	Don't have where to live	Friendship
M	4	1	-	2	11	1
F	2	2	1	-	5	1

Source: Primary data, March 2022

In the above table, the researcher finds different reasons provided by children why they decide

to go to streets. The study results indicate that the majority of boys preferred to go to street due to money earning compared to girls. Poverty is also regarded as the major reason streets children would decide to work at inappropriate jobs for despite their young ages. This might be an indication that some boys may be coming to the streets for the purpose of helping their families and for themselves. Girls come to street for having freedom.

4.3. Life of the street children

4.3.1. The ways of finding daily income by street children

Table 14: The ways of finding daily income by street children

Daily income activities	Frequency	Percentage
Robbery	3	10
Illegal trade	4	13.3
Collecting and selling scraps	10	33.3
Swindle	2	6.6
Garbage transporter	6	20
Domestic labor	2	6.6
Buying and selling drugs	3	10
Total	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

About the ways of finding daily income by street children, during the day, some respondents were begging in street to meet their daily needs, selling of scrap metal, carton boxes, and bottles collected from the garbage dumps.

One respondent answered as follows: *“My daddy is working as a night guard and my mother’s work is laundering services from house to house. Sometimes we had no food at home and I joined this street life because I needed to get foods, and I often came back home for a while. It is good to live at home, and go to school, but when no food at home, I prefer to go to the street where I collect scraps and sell them to earn money and then buy food.”* From the respondent from Kimisagara with 13 years old.

4.3.2. Challenges facing street children

Table 15. Challenges facing street children on the street

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage
Drug abuse	3	10
Child abuse	6	20
Involvement in violent crimes	2	6.6
Lack of medical care	9	30
Lack of shelter	7	23.3
Lack of food	3	10
Total	30	100

Source: Primary data, March 2022

When the street children were asked the problems they encountered, some respondents answered that they spent the whole nights out in the street corners, car parks, under bridges or in buildings under construction. The girls at night they had sexual abuse by the oldest people which cause different diseases (health issues). Due to the place where they are living, street children suffer poor general health and some of them are addicted to drugs, tobacco and alcohol. Street life for them was very complicated and children had different effect such as lack of education, no access to shelter, physical abuse, being beaten and lack of parental care. In other word, these results demonstrate that some children not only work in the streets but also live there.

4.4. Government strategies to dealing with street children

Existing government strategies to deal with the issue of street children are divided in two parts as follows: strategies related to rehabilitation services and strategies related to creation of 9-years and 12-years basic education Program.

4.4.1. Strategies related to rehabilitation services

The Government of Rwanda has put in place strategies to gather all street children in rehabilitation centers and be returned at their home after undergoing a reeducation. At this juncture, a lot of data was collected from government agencies and they indicate that the government is indeed not sleeping on the job when it comes to solving the problem of street children.

It was observed during data collection that Government put up rehabilitation center at Gitagata and scaled down different minor centers in other parts of the country purposely to rehabilitate children who run away from their homes and run to the streets.

This center receives children who have been brought by law enforcement officials as per Article 11 of the Ministerial Order, (2018) whereby Rwanda National Police is responsible for handing over to a transit center any person who has done acts or who exhibits deviant behaviors. Children from the streets are trained in life skills so that they can come back and settle as responsible citizens. The center admits many and provides rehabilitation courses and skills so that those children who left homes without knowing anything can come back and survive without necessarily resorting to streets.

However, the respondents further indicate that: *“some children on streets engage in running battles with law enforcement officials hiding not to be taken there and actually find being taken to a rehabilitation center as a punishment ...”*.

It can be argued that the intervention is good but is lacking a motivation element to the street children in order to attract them when promised to be taken. That is why some escape in transit to the rehabilitation centers because they feel nothing beneficial will come out of the center and hence continuing on streets offers some lifeline to them.

In the transit center, like Kigali Transit Center, children are brought by Rwanda National Police for a short period and are given education related to national programs, values, culture, self-development skills, etc... (Article 17 of the Ministerial Order, 2018).

On this, one respondent remarked that a period of time street children spent in Transit Center is not enough for them to assimilate the lessons:

“It is not enough to find that a child that was taken to Transit Center return after a short time. This cannot help him/her to assimilate the lessons and better for them to be kept at least six months. To ensure that the child who has ran to streets and become unmanageable is absorbed or admitted in the major rehabilitation center is a tall order and admission is so competitive hence some don't get the chance to be admitted and hence do not get appropriate rehabilitation.”

It is noted that the children that are taken to Transit Center should be kept for a long moment to be re-educated sufficiently and be given special life skills that are sustainable to the extent that if they are reintegrated in the society, they can survive on their own through the skills they have acquired.

4.4.2. Strategies related to creation of 9-years and 12-years basic education Program

Concerning the government initiative to introduce 9-year basic education and later 12-year basic education, it was in order to reduce the number of school dropouts that was increasing. This was a welcome intervention from the government and many benefited. This intervention of ensuring that school going children has helped children to leave streets with help of some non-Governmental organizations and has surely been a true revelation as it cut down on some street children. In fact, like all other social problems, they have a potential of replicating and as some are leaving the streets, others are joining the streets. The school dropouts are a major source of street children. Therefore, there is need to address the issue of school dropouts because without which, the problem of street children cannot be regulated.

4.5. Community based initiatives dealing with issue of street children

The researcher found the two following home grown solutions that are community based initiatives for prevention of family conflict and street children. Those are *Incuti z'Umuryango* (IZU) and *Umugoroba w'Imiryango* (UWI).

4.5.1. Initiation of 'Incuti z'Umuryango' (IZU)

The '*Incuti z'Umuryango*' (Friends of the Family), was initiated in 2016 by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF) through the National Commission for Children (NCC), in collaboration with the government partners including UNICEF, with the aim of strengthening the child protection system in communities. The '*Incuti z'Umuryango*' are community based child and family protection volunteers, with two persons who work in every village countrywide. This nationwide cadre is totalling around 29,674 volunteers (Nzabagerageza B, 2020).

Based on their good reputation they have in the community, '*Incuti z'Umuryango*' are nominated by residents in every village and usually work as a pair in supporting children and

families. This community workforce support of the child protection system responds to the everyday needs of Rwandan children and families. Through household visits, *'Incuti z'Umuryango'* identify and handle child protection concerns that may come up.

When facing any case requiring statutory intervention, *'Incuti z'Umuryango'* refer the case to suitable social services or law enforcement professionals including District Child Protection and Welfare Services, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda National Police, Health authorities, Isange One Stop Center and local authorities.

One respondent, 55 years, from Kimisagara shared this experience: *"In our work, we helped many children to return home from the street life and they resumed education at primary school"*.

The *'Incuti z'Umuryango'* operating in Kimisagara Sector, are among many others who are performing well.

One respondent, 48 years, volunteer from Kimisagara Sector, who coordinates activities of IZU said: *"When we are informed on the problem of marital conflict in a given family, we visit that family and help them to express themselves and after interacting with the couple their problems got solved amicably when they overtly express their feelings."*

To help children to return home from the street, one respondent, 48 years, in Kimisagara said: *"When parents are in conflict, the children lack peace and prefer to go to road, and we take children from the street and give them to Malayika Murinzi chosen by Incuti z'Umuryango to take care of the street children"*.

It was observed that *'Incuti z'Umuryango'* plays a big role to help family in conflict to solve their marital conflicts also they contribute to make street children return to their home or find for them the families to take care of them.

4.5.2. Initiation of *'Umugoroba w'Imiryango'*

The government has brought different interventions to protect families such that problems emanating from family instabilities are resolved amicably. It is in this sense that Parents' evening forums began in 2010 as *"Akagoroba k'abagore"* for some women that wanted to solve problems and challenges they met at time. Because of the impact of *Akagoroba*

k'abagore at time, MIGEPROF has transformed *Akagoroba k'abagore* into '*Umugoroba w'Ababyeyi*' as known as Parents' evening forum and it assembles both men and women to discuss various social, economic and political issues. The official launch of parents' evening forum held in 2013. Now the parents' evening forum was reviewed in 2020 to become '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*' (UWI) so that both men, women and children of the same village may participate in the forum.

'Umugoroba w'Imiryango' has been created with the following objectives:

- ✓ Promoting good relationships and social development for all members of the family in a Village;
- ✓ Preparing the future parents;
- ✓ Preventing gender based violence and domestic violence;
- ✓ Preventing and solving family conflict in the village;
- ✓ Promoting education, and human rights for children's right and other family members;
- ✓ Promoting gender equality principle in the family;
- ✓ Enhancing socio-economic development in line to promote social welfare with participation of all family members;
- ✓ Educating family members to contribute to all State programs.

Some respondents asserted that: *"The Ministry brought "Umugoroba w'Imiryango" a meeting for parents to discuss problems facing the family such as family conflicts and gender-based violence. In such meetings they always get some people to sensitize them on problems facing families and parenting the children to avert them from running away from homes is central issue."*

This platform has had a positive impact in changing the mind-set of the people especially those parents who attend them. Initially it was mandatory for all parents to attend them but there is complacency and enforcing it is against its aims and such loophole has been exploited by some parents especially males who escape and hence do not to benefit from this platform. Therefore, this means that those who dodge these meetings are not benefiting them and it was also aimed at sensitizing those who are married but the number of single parents is increasing and the founders of the program have not revised it. In other words, one can argue that

platforms of this nature that would follow up problems and conflicts in homes when they are not strictly enforced then their advantages turn into disadvantages and hence the targeted social problems like street children always get potential to multiply.

Now, *'Umugoroba w'Imiryango'*, includes all family members, both men, women and children to participate in the forum, and this helps in promoting the rights of child as well as the protection of family.

4.6. Challenges of children returning to street after reintegration in the society

Knowing how the children have welcomed in their respective families, the respondents highlighted that their reintegration into their own families and communities was not perfect because the root causes of initial problems were not addressed and children have not been followed up in their families. As part of this reintegration process, some challenges have been raised by children such as unwillingness of the parents to accept the children back home, on the same way; they avoid the burden to take care of their own children; high poverty encountered, non-family and foster families to welcome. Also, there was another challenge about the environment where the child should be reintegrated while his/her parents live in marital conflict, alcoholism or other drugs. Therefore, it is a challenge for children to stay in this kind of environment.

According to the respondents from District: *"Police always get issues when they get the street children especially those who haven't got spoilt and could be reintegrated in homes for proper parenting. However, there is always no trace of their former families and new homes to care for these children are not there...."*.

This means that reintegration even after rehabilitation is unachievable due to the challenges of not having care homes for these children and besides as asserted above that these children are detested due to their strange characters that makes them social misfits and hence streamlining their personalities and character is difficult and hence many are rehabilitated and not reintegrated well in the community that poses more potential for recidivism on streets. It should be noted that reintegration to normal standards is an essential stage of rehabilitation and growth of street children and its absence makes the efforts undertaken miss an impact on the children.

4.7. Conclusion to Chapter four

This chapter focused presentation, interpretation and analysis of collected data. The research was harmonized and all different data collected from heterogeneous respondents were analysed and gave to the findings a suitable and logical order to follow hence making the research well undertaken.

It was realized that the objectives of this research were achieved. For the first objective which was aiming to analyze the extent to which marital conflict factors contribute to street children in Nyarugenge district, it was realized that marital conflict factors contribute to lead children to the street, in such way that, when there are conflicts among couples related to domestic violence, this pushes children to quit the family and end up in the street and don't even want to return home, whereas poverty of family pushes children to work on the street and return home.

Also, for the second objective to know other factors that may contribute to lead children to the street, it was discovered that besides marital conflicts, among other factors, some of them are pushing whereas others are pulling children to the street. It was well observed that parenthood status may be a pushing factor like parents' intake drugs, negligence, poor parenting, giving corporal punishment or any level of abuse, mistreatment or neglect will grow up with negative behaviour that push children to end up to the streets. This coupled with peer influence, some children prefer the city life where they get money and freedom and these are pulling factors.

For the last objective of knowing the measures and strategies to overcome the issue of street children, the government was seen throughout the findings doing a great deal of work in ensuring that children are removed from streets. However, it was also discovered that some of the interventions implemented by the government to address the problem of street children do not decisively impact on the problem according to expectations, since some children were seen returning to the street. It was realized that the government through initiations of rehabilitation centers, and 9 years and 12 years' basic education, rescued street children and reintegrated them in the society. Also, the community based initiatives on '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*' and '*Incuti z'Umuryango*', contribute to managing marital conflicts and prevent street children.

Therefore, a lot of interventions are needed from different organizations such as governmental based organizations (like MIGEPROF and other Ministries or governmental institutions working with child protection), local authorities, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the community and parents. Those interventions should be directed towards protection

of the family from conflicts and making them stakeholders in ensuring that street children as a social problem is solved. Also, they should focus on the prevention of street children, rehabilitation and reintegration of street children into the community, follow up the reintegrated street children, and managing marital conflicts, through community awareness, capacity building, etc.

In few words, this chapter related to data presentation, interpretation and analysis has answered to all research questions.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction

The general objective of the research was to examine the extent to which marital conflicts contribute to street children in Nyarugenge District, especially in Kimisagara Sector. In order to pursue this overall objective, three research objectives were formulated: (a) To explore the extent to which marital conflicts factors lead the children to street in Kimisagara sector, (b) to analyse other factors that lead children to live on street and (c) to examine strategies for preventing the rise of the problem of street children. These objectives are in conformity with the research questions. From the analysis of the data, the research derived the findings as grouped according to the thematic areas that the researcher deemed fitting.

5.1. Summary of findings

For the objective number one of knowing the extent to which marital conflicts factors lead the children to street in Kimisagara sector, the researcher finds different reasons relating to marital conflict provided by children why they decided to go to streets. Among them, domestic violence (Aggression/domestic violence, spouse battering, spousal abuse, Domestic fights between spouses, etc...) took 33.3%, and family disorganized (divorce, separation, living with step parent, parents' unknown) 26.6%, while communication breakdown 6.6% and poverty of family 20%. It was clearly shown that many children went to street because of family conflict and mainly marital conflict. Poverty of family also pushed children on the street to find food for the family.

Marital conflict related to domestic violence push children to go living in the street and don't even want to return home, whereas poverty of family push children to work on the street but return home, while disorganized family related conflict makes children to not even know their parents and homes and stay on the street.

For the second objective, related to other factors that push children to the street, it was realized that 20% of the respondents indicated that parents' intake drugs, child neglect and absence of parents are among factors that lead children in the streets. Pregnancy also is a point on which the respondents (6.6%) revealed that it is a sore point to fear and that pushes girls to flee the house and find themselves in the street.

It is well observed that when children are told to do something without giving them a reason, they consider it as a dictatorship imposed to them. For instance, punishment is good for helping a child to learn and remember from their mistake but to beat or harass a child is not a solution. Children who receive corporal punishment or any level of abuse, mistreatment or neglect will grow up with negative behavior.

In addition, the research found out the attractive things that pulled children to street. These findings are the following: 20% respondents indicated that they like city life, 10% answered that in city life they get money for survival, thus they were coming for looking for jobs in the city. Some of the respondents said that they saw their colleagues coming into the streets and could get money quickly and then decided to join them. Other 53.3% said they come to city because they don't have nowhere to live. While 3.3% of respondents needed self-reliance and freedom from their families. They came on the street with the hope of getting well-paying job, and then the lowest respondents, 6.6% indicated that they came in the urban area for looking their friend. The interaction between street children and admired children cause the influence.

From this point, the researcher finds different reasons provided by children why they decide to go to streets. The study results indicate that the majority of boys preferred to go to street due to money earning compared to girls. Poverty is also regarded as the major reason streets children would decide to work at inappropriate jobs for despite their young ages. This might be an indication that some boys may be coming to the streets for the purpose of helping their families and for themselves. Girls come to street for having freedom.

For the third objective which was to examine the existing strategies for preventing the rise of the problem of street children, the researcher realized that some strategies are initiated by the Government whereas others are initiated at the community level. On one side, the Government of Rwanda has put in place strategies to gather all street children in rehabilitation centers and be returned at their home after undergoing a reeducation. At this stage, a lot of data was collected from government agencies and they indicate that the government is indeed not sleeping on the job when it comes to solving the problem of street children. It was also observed that the Government of Rwanda put up rehabilitation center at Gitagata and scaled down different minor centers in other parts of the country purposely to rehabilitate children who flee their homes to the streets. It is also observed that the government introduced 9-year basic education and later 12-year basic education to reduce the number of school dropouts. This was a welcome intervention from the government and many benefited.

On the other side, the research found the two community based initiatives for prevention of family conflict and street children. Those are *Incuti z'Umuryango* (IZU) and *Umugoroba w'Imiryango* (UWI). These two institutions are homegrown solutions that mainly contribute to strategies of preventing of marital conflict and street children. The researcher was observed that '*Incuti z'Umuryango*' play a big role to help family in conflict to solve their marital conflicts also they contribute to make street children return to their home or find for them the families to take care of them. In addition, '*Umugoroba w'Imiryango*', include all family members, both men, women and children in a Village may participate in the forum, and this helps in promoting education and rights of child as well as other human rights for family members.

Concerning the challenges encountered while implementing the mentioned strategies, the respondents highlighted that the reintegration of children into their own families and communities was not perfect because the root causes of initial problem were not addressed and children have not been followed up in their families. Also, an another challenge was about the environment where the child should be reintegrated while his/her parents still live in marital conflicts, alcoholism or other drugs. They concluded that is the reason why they are returning on the street.

5.2. Conclusion

In conclusion, the research achieved its intended objectives that formed the background of the research questions and guided the research findings. The situation of street children poses serious insecurity both social and economic problems and there is a need to mitigate it by looking into its root causes. Although this phenomenon of street children is a global issue, identifying the reasons for their existence is crucial in finding its permanent solution.

In Rwanda, to the phenomenon of street children, there are different policies and programs put in place in Rwanda, aiming to protect street children, including national rehabilitation services (like transit and rehabilitation centres), and the program of 9 years and 12 years' basic education. Also there are homegrown solutions, *Incuti z'Umuryango* (IZU) and *Umugoroba w'Imiryango* (UWI), which are efficient community based initiatives for prevention of family conflict and street children.

It was realized that marital conflict is unavoidable. When marital conflicts are handled in a positive way, they are constructive and serve to reduce impact on children. However, when marital conflicts are handled in negative way through physical aggression, threats, and insults, they become destructive conflicts, and even affect the children's social wellbeing which contribute to lead them to flee the parents' house and end up to the street.

Other factors that intervene in marital conflicts and lead children to live on the street are socio-economic factors which include poverty, hunger and deprivation of studies, absence of both or one of the parents because of death of one of the parents, lack of necessary care in the family, adventure and peer influence, born on the streets, parents' negligence etc...

The government was seen throughout the findings doing a great deal of work in ensuring that children are rescued from the streets and taken to rehabilitation centers to ensure that they are reintegrated in their families or relatives, or sent to rehabilitations centers for re-education to gain life skills.

5.3. Recommendations

Following the research conducted on marital conflicts and street children, a case study of Nyarugenge district, several stakeholders need to be put on board to ensure that the causes of street children are mitigated. Those are governmental based organizations like MIGEPROF and other Ministries or governmental institutions working with child protection, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the community and parents. The main areas that need interventions from all stakeholders are the prevention of street children, their rehabilitation and reintegration as well as the follow up of reintegrated street children.

For Governmental based organizations and Local Authorities, the following are areas of interventions:

- Monitoring of movement of street children from one area to another, from families to street or rehabilitation centres back to street, to be done in collaboration with village authorities.
- Applying severe penalties for parents, guardians who abuse or exploit children and employ children on the street; and those who expose their children to risk and vulnerability;

- Strengthening poverty reduction and vulnerable households by identifying the street children problem and their families to be assisted in the framework of existing poverty reduction strategies.

For Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society, the community and parents, the following are areas of interventions:

- Awareness campaign on drug abuse, HIV, Sexually Transmissible Infections.
- Raising community awareness on parents' responsibilities for the well-being of the children.
- Promoting family conflict management through '*Umurogoba w'Imiryango*' and '*Incuti z'Umuryango*' to mitigate destructive marital conflict.
- Providing proper education, adequate standard of living, parental supervision, guidance and protection to children.
- Preventing and avoiding marital conflicts that cause children to go to the street

5.4. Suggested Further Areas of Research

It is not reliable to assume that all corners of the subject under investigation have been exhausted. Therefore, this study suggests researchers interested in topics related to the issues of marital conflicts and street children to complete where this research left gaps. In this framework, the following can be further areas of research:

- A study on analyzing the underlying socio-economic factors leading children to the street in Rwanda.
- A study on examining street children with special needs like those living with disability in Rwanda.

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APPENDICES

A. LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO RESPONDENTS

Dear Respondent

My name is Faustin MUNYABARENZI (phone 0788594961). I am a student from University of Rwanda at Rwanda National Police College Campus. I am conducting research entitled “**Marital conflicts and street children: A case study of Nyarugenge District**”, as a partial fulfilment of the award of Master’s Degree of Arts in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation. This interview intends to collect the information and you are among the persons I preferred to interview. The information that you will provide will help the researcher to understand impact of marital conflict on the increasing rate of street children in Nyarugenge District. Please be informed that the information provided is for academic purposes only and it will be treated in strict confidentiality and also your names will not appear anywhere while reporting the findings. If you feel uncomfortable, you may refuse to answer any question, or end the interview any time, and this will not have any negative consequence on you.

I thank you in advance for your acceptance to participate in this study.

Participant’s consent Declaration

I understand that participation is voluntary. Refusal to participate will involve no penalty understand that I may discontinue participation at any time without penalty. I declare that I have given my consent.

Participant’s Name and Signature:

Date:

Researcher’s Declaration

I have explained and defined in detail the research procedures in which the interviewee has consented to participate.

Signature of research and date:

B. GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR LEADERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Position or Appointment:

District/Sector:

Date of Interview:

Qn1. How many years have you worked in this department /Sector?

Qn1 Mumaze imyaka ingahe mukora uyu murimo?

R1.....
.....
.....

Qn2. Is there any form of marital conflict reported in the district/sector? Yes/Oya

Qn2 Ese hari ibibazo by'amakimbirane hagati y'abashakanye mukunze kwakira mu karere/murenge? Yego/Oya

R2.....
.....
.....

Qn3. If yes, what are the common forms of marital conflict reported?

Qn3. Niba ari yego, ni ubuhe bwoko bw'amakimbirane y'abashakanye mukunda kwakira?

R3.....
.....
.....

Qn4. Are there cases of street children recorded in the district/sector?

Qn4. Ese mukazi mukora hari ikibazo cy'abana b'inzererezi mukunda guhura nacyo muri aka karere/uyu murenge? Yego/Oya

R4.....
.....
.....

Qn5. If yes, have these cases of street children any relationship with the marital conflict?

Q5 Niba ari yego, iki kibazo cy'abana b'inzererezi ubona gifitanye isano n'amakimbirane hagati y'abashakanye?

R5.....
.....
.....

Qn6. According to your experience, marital conflict can have impact on street children?

Yes/No

Qn6. Nkurikije uburambe ufite mu kazi, mubona amakimbirane hagati y'abashakanye hari ingaruka yagira ku bana b'inzererezi? Yego /Oya

R6.....
.....
.....

Qn7. If yes, what kind of impact do marital conflict have on street children?

Qn7 Niba ari yego ni izihe ngaruka abana b'inzererezi bahura nazo bitewe n'amakimbirane y'abashakanye?

R7.....
.....
.....

Qn8. Are there any policies being implemented by the government to respond to the problem of street children? Yes/No

Qn8. Ese hari ingamba leta yashyizeho zo gukemura ikibazo cy'abana b'inzererezi?

Yego/Oya

R8.....
.....
.....

Qn9. If yes are there any challenges faced while implementing these policies mentioned above?

Q9. Niba ari yego, ni izihe mbogamizi muhura nazo mu gihe muri kubahiriza aya mabwiriza?

Q9.....
.....
.....

Qn10. How can the problem of street children be solved in your area?

Qn10. Ni gute ikibazo cy'abana b'inzererezi cyakemuka muri aka karere ka Nyarugenge/uyu Murenge?

Q10.....
.....
.....

Qn11. How are law enforcement officials handling the problem of marital conflict?

Qn11 Inzego zishinzwe kubahiriza amategeko zikemura gute amakimbirane y'abashakanye?

R11.....
.....
.....

Qn12. How can street children be rehabilitated and integrated in the community?

Qn12 Ni gute abana b'inzerezi bafashwa gusubizwa mu buzima busanzwe?

R12.....
.....
.....

Qn13. What are the strategies to put in place to handle the problem of street children?

Q13 Ni izihe ngamba zafasha gucyemura ikibazo cy'abana b'inzerezi?

R13.....
.....
.....

Qn14. Should street children be handled as productive citizens of the country?

Qn14. Abana b'inzerezi mubafata nk'abatwaga bashobora gutanga umusaruro ku gihugu?

R14.....
.....
.....

Qn15. What suggestions do you have in order address trend of street children related to marital conflict?

Qn15. Ni iyihe nama watanga kugira ngo ikibazo cy'abana b'inzerezi giterwa n'amakimbirane y'abashakanye gikemuke?

R15.....
.....
.....

Thanks for your frank collaboration! / Murakoze cyane!

C. GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN

Qn1 What is your name?

Qn1 Wambwira amazina yawe?

R1.....
.....
.....

Qn2 How old are you?

Qn2 Ufite imyaka ingahe?

R2.....
.....
.....

Qn 3. Where are you coming from (District, Sector, Cell, and Village)?

Qn 3. Uturuka he (Akarere, Umurenge, Akagari, Umudugudu)?

R3.....
.....
.....

Qn4 For how long are you on the street?

Qn 4: Umaze igihe kingana iki uba mu muhanda?

R4.....
.....
.....

Qn5 Why have you left your family and living in the streets?

Q5. Ni iyihe mpamvu yatumye uva mu rugo ukaza kuba mu muhanda?

R5.....
.....
.....

Qn 6 Which attractive things that pulled you to go on the street?

Qn 6 Ni ibihe byagukuruye mu buzima bwo mu muhanda?

R6.....
.....
.....

Qn7 What problems did you meet, which caused you to go to the street? Explain shortly what happen.

Qn 7 Ni ibihe bibazo wahuye nabyo byaguteye kujya kuba mu muhanda? Dusobanurire uko byagenze.

R7.....
.....
.....

Qn8 How is the life on the street?

Qn8 Mu buzima bwo mu muhanda mubaho gute?

R8.....
.....
.....

Qn9 Do you live in street or you work and go back to your family?

Qn9 Ese muba mu muhanda cyangwa muhaba ku manywa mugataha mu muryango?

R9.....
.....
.....

Qn 10 What challenges do you meet in living on the street? How do you solve them?

Qn 10 Ni izihe mbogamizi muhura nazo mu muhanda? Muzikemura mute?

R10.....
.....
.....

Q11 Have you your parents both father and mother?

Q11 Ufite ababyeyi bawe bose papa na mama?

R11.....
.....
.....

Qn12 Are your parents staying together? Yes, or No? If no, why?

Qn12 Ababyeyi bawe barabana? Yego/Oya. Niba ari oya ni ukubera iki batabana?

R12.....
.....
.....

Qn 13 Have you seen any kind of conflict in your family? Yes or No

Qn 13 Ese hari amakimbirane akunze kuba mu muryango wanyu? Yego /Oya

R13.....
.....
.....

Qn14 If yes, which kind of conflict

Qn14 Niba ari yego ni ayahe?

R14.....
.....
.....

Qn15 What is your father's occupation?

What is your mother's occupation?

Qn 15 Papa wawe akora uwuhe mwuga?

Mama wawe akora uwuhe mwuga?

R15.....
.....
.....

Qn16 According to you, living in the family and living in the street which life is good and why?

Qn 16 Ese uko ubibona, kuba mu muryango wawe n'ubuzima bwo mu muhanda ni ubuhe bwiza? Ni ukubera iki?

R16.....
.....
.....

Qn17 Have you ever been to school? a. If yes, when and what was your last class? b. Why did you drop out?

Qn 17 Wigeze ujya mu ishuri? a.Niba ari yego, waviriyemo mu wa kangahe? b.Kuki wavuye mu ishuri?

R17.....
.....
.....

Qn 18 Would you like to go back to school? Why?

Qn 18 Wifuza gusubira mu ishuri? Kubera iki?

R18.....
.....
.....

Qn 19 Do you have a dream of returning home? When and how?

a. If no, why?

b. But if yes, why don't you leave now? And what kind of life do you dream to live after returning home?

Qn 19 Ufite igitekerezo cyo kugaruka mu rugo? Ni ryari gute?

a.Niba ari oya, ni ukubera iki?

b.Niba ari yego, kuki utasubirayo ubu ngubu? Ni ubuhe buzima wifuza kubamo umaze gusubira mu rugo.

R19.....
.....
.....

Thanks for your frank collaboration! / Murakoze cyane!

Figure 4: To Whom It May Concern

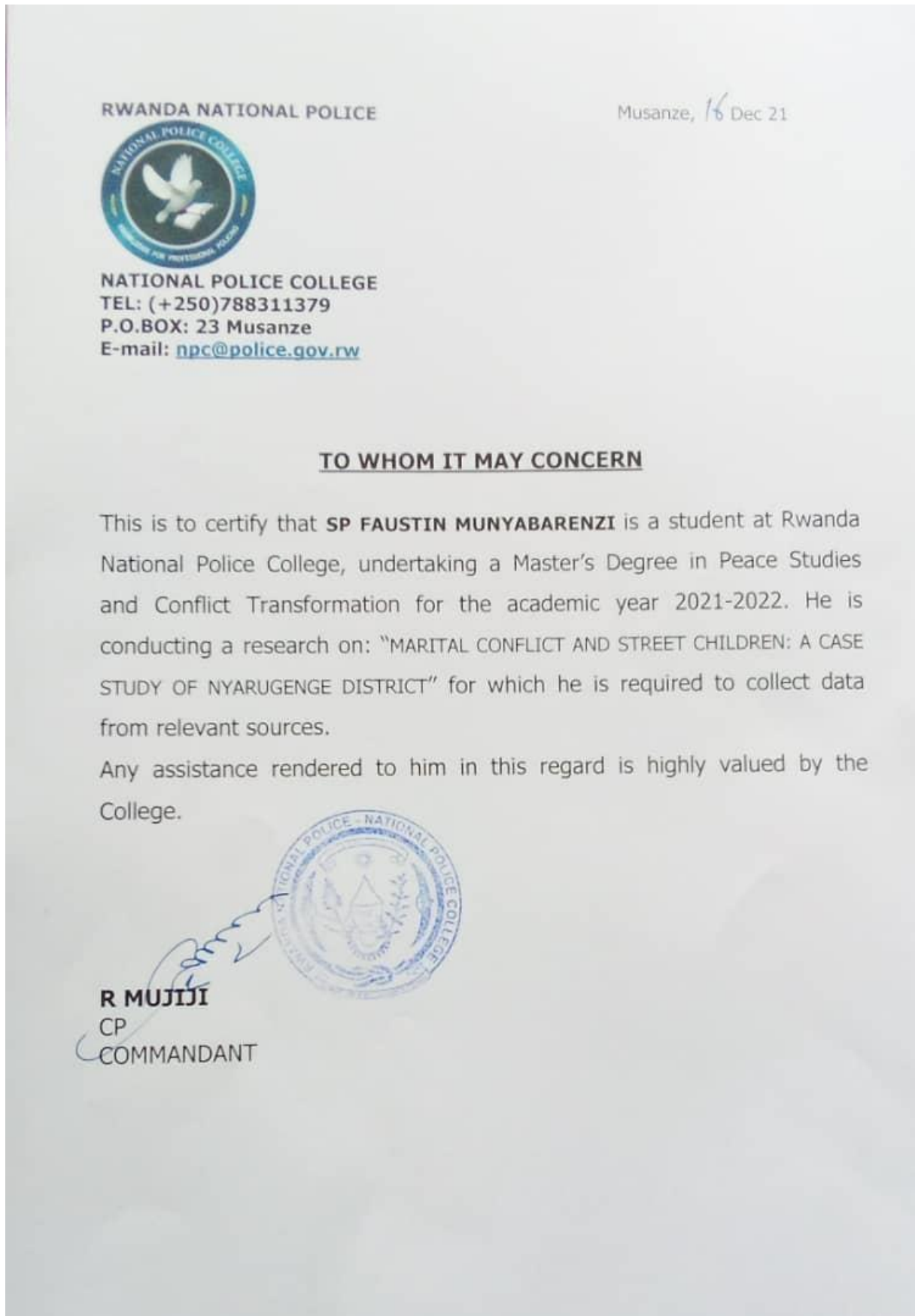
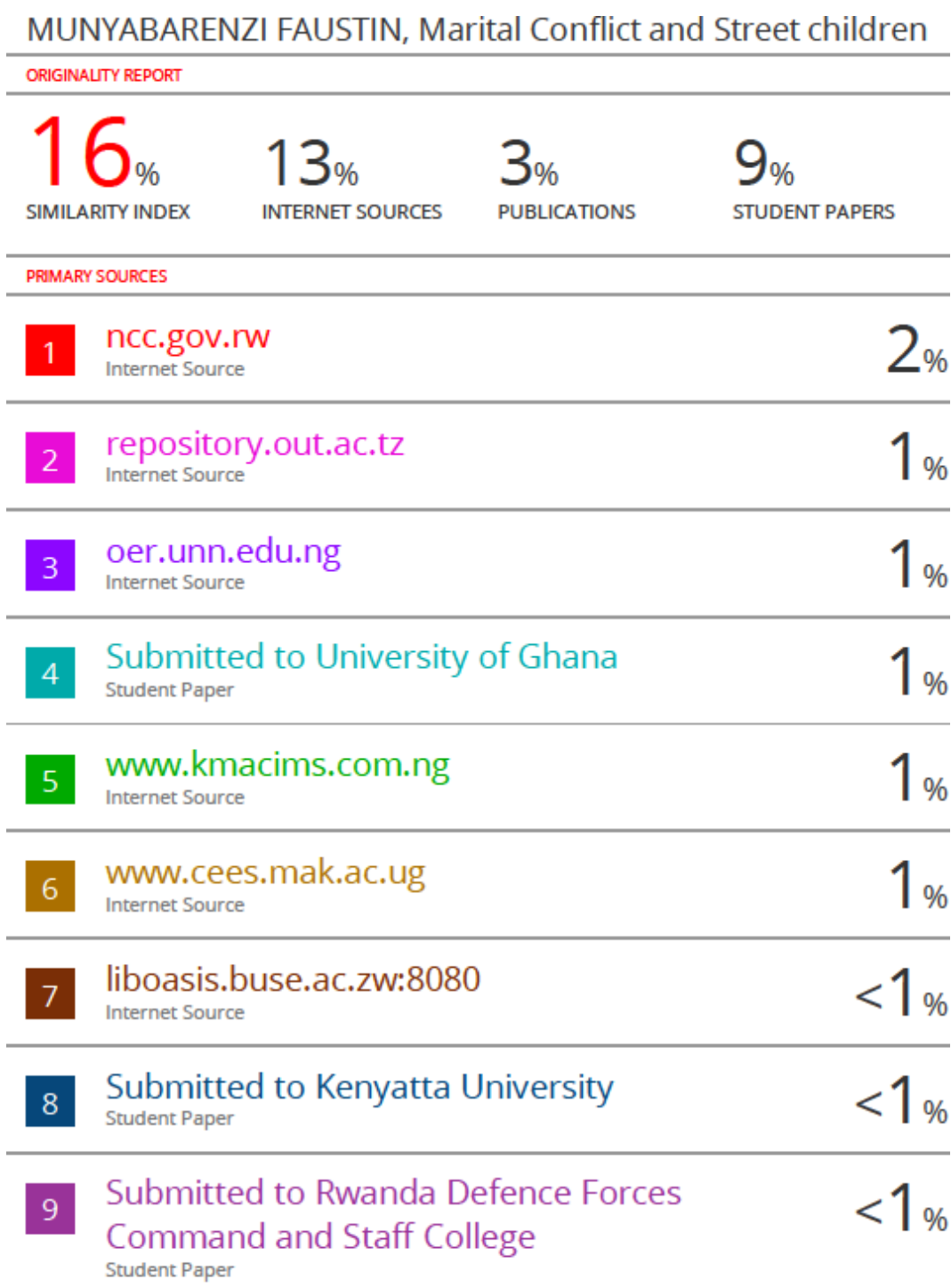


Figure 5: Turn it in Report





COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CENTRE FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

AUTHORISATION TO SUBMIT THE CORRECTED DISSERTATION

I, undersigned, **George WYCLIFFE BUTARE, PhD**, member of the panel of examiners of the dissertation done by **MUNYABARENZI Faustin** entitled: **“Marital Conflicts and Street Children: A Case Study of Nyarugenge District”**

Hereby testify that, he successfully entered the suggested corrections by the panel of examiners and stands with authorization to submit required copies to the administration of CCM for administrative purpose.

Done at Kigali

Date: 17/06/2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George Wycliffe Butare', written over a light blue horizontal line.

George WYCLIFFE BUTARE, PhD

For Administration of the CCM MA Program: Name, Signature