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Diving Deeper on Their Realms: The Prominence of Education on Street Children

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at the lives of children after accessing education, the assistance provided, and the efficiency of education at the heart of the classroom. This study aims to answer the following questions about street children: (i) How can they go to school and learn despite the challenges of being street children?; (ii) What programs are available to help them?; (iii) To what extent can these programs be provided to children?; and (iv) When taking to the streets. This study used a qualitative method by conducting interviews with five children aged 10-15 years who came from the city of Tacurong, the Philippines. Some street children continue their education despite all their limitations, some other children take to the streets to find additional money with the knowledge of their parents, and the amount of money they bring home is barely enough or only sufficient, and some programs reach those who are less able. In short, street children are aware of the importance of learning, they have dreams and many are trying to achieve them in any way they can - even if it means risking their lives to beg for alms on the streets. Since this study proves how important education is for these children, this study provides a better scope for us to look at children that are roaming the streets to achieve their dreams and programs

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1. INTRODUCTION

The distressing number of approximately 1 million street people according to [Philippine Statistics Authority \(2018\)](#) leaves one the undying question about the prominence of education to those who have their backs pointed at by poverty's crosshair- the street children ([Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018](#)).

Education has become a prominent thing nowadays, as most individuals are interested in this issue. Moreover, it cannot be isolated from the life of man ([Johan & Harlan, 2014](#)). Poverty is the major culprit when children can't go to school even if they wanted to ([Boholano, 2013](#)). Parent should regularly involve in the academic irrespective of their financial status ([Moneva et al., 2018](#)). Because of their grasp of the goals they want to follow, kids will be inspired to learn and go to school daily ([Moneva et al., 2018](#)). Few government operations to rescue street children are counterproductive, indiscriminate, unintentional, and were done for the false reasons ([Boholano, 2013](#)). However, there is no study about the prominence of education on the children of the street.

This study provides insight into seeing the truth by using a qualitative research case study design. Interviews were conducted with street children in Tacurong City, the Philippines. The main things in this research are (1) how they can go to school and learn even though they face challenges as street children, (2) what programs are there to help them, and (3) the extent to which these programs can be provided to children. this child.

2. METHODS

We have requested permission from the Tacurong City Social Welfare and Development Office to interview street children. We compiled interview questions based on the problems we had in the study. Conducted on 15-16 February 2020 on the streets of Tacurong City, the Philippines. **Figure 1** shows the location of Tacurong City, the Philippines. During the interview, we've used a voice recorder to extract the data said by our interviewees. After the collection of data, we translated the data from its mother tongue to English. We interpreted the data through thematic data analysis by creating themes based on the responses of the respondents.



Figure 1. Location Map of Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, The Philippines

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Using the intended data analysis approach, 7 themes emerged: Knowledge About Education, Educational Success, Parental Support, Difficulties in Effective Learning, Understanding Lessons, Program Objectives, and Program Locations:

- (i) Knowledge of Education, we found that street children recognize education as the key to achieving their dreams. This inspires some children to take advantage of education regardless of their situation.
- (ii) Pursuance of Education, some of these children turned out to have access to education despite the situation. Some of them do not have access to education. The main cause is poverty.
- (iii) Parental Support, these children actually get support from their parents in accessing education. Their casual work gives their children access to education, but not full access.
- (iv) Difficulty in Effective Learning, these children find it difficult to meet their needs at school. They prefer to ask people for alms rather than fulfil their needs.
- (v) Understanding the lesson, these children were found to have no difficulty in understanding their lessons in school. They are determined to study and fight for their dreams.
- (vi) Objective of the Program, the AnCOP Walk program is designed to help street children in meeting their educational needs.
- (vii) Study Locations, it is known that the AnCOP Walk program is located at Bautista Farm, New Isabella, Tacurong City.

After this analytical approach exists, it can be determined that the education provided must be of good quality through a relevant curriculum so that it can enable these children to lead decent lives and can contribute to national development (Kisirkoi & Mse, 2016). Children need to be empowered to build self-confidence and a sense of self-worth diminished by years of adversity. More importantly, investigations into their learning needs can organize curricula, which can bridge what happens because of their unique life experiences that survive in school compared to other children. (Kilbride, 2000). The resulting theme of Superordinating Street Children in the Education and Vocational Program is shown in **Table 1**.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicate that these children recognize education as their means to achieve their dreams and ambitions. However, most or the majority of street children in the Philippines do not have access to education as their main right, poverty being the reason. Two out of five respondents said they had access to education and were supported by their parents, particularly their mother. They pay attention in class and have no trouble understanding their lessons which imply they want to learn to achieve their dreams. Even so, they are busy asking for alms and find it difficult to meet their needs at school. AnCOP Global Walk is a vocational program that aims to help street children in fulfilling basic needs such as food, shelter, and especially education. The location is set in New Isabella, Tacurong City at Bautista Farm.

Table 1. Superordinate themes of street children on education and vocational program.

Themes	Responses
Knowledge About Education	I want to learn to help me reach my dreams.; So that I can help my parents.; So that I can have my own house and car.
Pursuance of Education	I'm at school in Griño.; We have no money.; I don't want to.
Parental Support	My mother supports me in my schooling.; My mother is a maid and does laundry.
Difficulties in Effective Learning	I cannot do my assignments because I'm busy asking alms for my sister.; I'll rather ask alms to people when I have free time.; I'm always lacking of things. I have no crayons.
Understanding Lessons	Yes. I understand our lessons.; I pay attention to our lessons.
Objectives of the Program	The AnCOP program aims to help everyone gradually however for now it focuses mainly to those students coming from a poor background whose parents don't have a stable source of income.
Location of the Program	The program is located internationally.; The head office is in Cubao, Quezon City.; The Tacurongnons can contact the head of the YFC and CFC or they can visit the office of CFC-YFC at Bautista Farm.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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