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Paper Title: Street Children in Tanzania: Analyzing the Barriers to Resolving and Reversing a Growing Social Crisis

Abstract: Several factors have given rise to the increasing number of street children in Tanzania, creating a social crisis. Living in poverty, these children face a daily struggle to meet their basic needs. This paper attempts to root out the most prevalent causes and effective solutions to the street child dilemma, with particular emphasis on the educational system and the role it plays in exacerbating the problem. The paper explores various aspects of the street children phenomenon, including the inability to create a uniform, concrete definition of “street children,” the role of a sub-par educational system in contributing to the problem, the lack of adequate legislation recognizing street children’s rights, and the essential need for a shift in societal norms. From there, the paper surveys the efforts of the government and non-governmental organizations in addressing the problem. The efforts of the government are largely hampered by the lack of an adequate infrastructure, while non-governmental organization’s efforts are encouraging, but are tempered by limited resources. Finally, the paper explores potential solutions, including the enactment and enforcement of comprehensive legislation concerning children’s rights, as well as fundamental reforms in the educational system.