PUBLIC SPACE OCCUPATION AND UTILIZATION AMONG STREET CHILDREN OF DILLA TOWN

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Abstract

The problem of street children is a global concern and an increasing number of children are being forced to the streets driven by poverty, abuse, loss of parent, divorce, and torture. Most of these children are deprived of basic needs such as shelter, food and cloth. There is a widespread perception among the children and the public in large that public space is a free space for street children to enjoy. This paper explores public space occupation and utilization by street children using GIS and RS techniques. The study explores the movement of street children from one place to another; and analyse public perception towards street children. The study draws on a multiple methods fieldwork, which lasted for three weeks using focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, in depth interview, and participant observation together with participatory mapping. Researchers' field notes and reflections over field observations were also included as one data collection method. Data for this study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected from street children, key informants; while secondary data such as reports from official documents were consulted to supplement the primary data. In order to generate spatial data of the occupation and utilization of public space, 1:50, 000 topographic maps, and orthophoto were used. Based on the analysis made, it was identified that the children are abandoned to the public spaces without fulfilling any of their basic needs. Majority of the children don't have safe place to live. Our investigation attested that street children developed the feeling that they are only entitled to live in a place which is not claimed by the public. Our spatial data have shown that public space such as market places, bus station, different business areas and street corners, ditches, bridges are among the spaces claimed by the children. They don't have the courage to live close to residential areas as they are considered a 'threat' by the public in general. This makes the children the most marginalized, ignored part of the population, facing many human rights violations. Thus, it is imperative to improve perception of the public and street children in order to reduce the challenges that children of the street have been facing.

Keywords: GIS and RS, Public space, Street children

1 Introduction

Children have been compared to flowers often as the similarities are evident - they are beautiful, they are unique, they require tender, loving care, they bloom in their own time. Often we focus on changing our children rather than changing their environment, but changing the environment has a big impact on how our children grow. If we consciously tend to our gardens, our flowers will blossom (Eanes, 2014) the

same logic works for the children as well.

Families, especially parents play a fundamental role in forming the values of children. The ability to cope with and adjust to life problems and demands is based upon the psychological foundations of early family experiences. Children receive care for their dependency and attention for their sociability. The kind of care and attention children receive during their early years of life affect their handling of important issues, such as trust vs. distrust. This ability equips children for establishing later ties with people outside the family (Aptekar,1993; Aptekar, 1994; Aptekar and Behailu, 2015) Nowadays, most children are forced to live on the streets without due care and support from their family. Street children are children who struggle for the challenges of life on the street. For Thomas (2001), the term "street children" is demeaning by itself, because it depersonalizes each child and makes him/her a problem to be solved. The term street involved children rather than street children (Kobayashi, 2004).

Though finding the exact number of street children is difficult, in 2011 the UN reported there are estimated to be 120 million children living on the streets in the world (30 million in Africa, 30 million in Asia, and 60 million in South America). The UN in 2017 reported the number of street children increased to 150 million throughout the world (UNDP, 2017).

According to UNICEF report, in Ethiopia 150,000 children live on the streets and 60,000 of them are found in the capital of the country. However, aid agencies estimate that the problem may be far more serious, with nearly 600,000 street children countrywide and over 100,000 in Addis Ababa (Shimelis, 2015).

Children are at risk of abuse, exploitation and vigilante or police violence, but the most vulnerable are those who actually sleep and live on the streets, hiding under bridges, in gutters, in railway stations. They also suffer from absence of parental protection and security due to the missing connection with their families (Ibrahim, 2012). While they may have small jobs such as shoe-shining or market-selling to pull through, many also end up dying on the pavement, Hunger, victims of drugs, gang rivalry and at risk from rape and other sexual abuse as well as sexual exploitation and live at great risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. Without some form of basic education and economic training, the future is bleak for these street children and their life expectancy terrifyingly low (UNICEF, 2017).

The issue of street children is an alarming and an escalating problem worldwide; and for many street children, capital cities and urban centres of the world have become places of survival (Kaleab, 2016). The emergence of street children is bound up with the totality of urban problems that the phenomenon is exclusively urban: there are no "rural street children." The migration of children from rural areas to urban public places proves this problem as an outcome of urbanization (Ennew& Swart-Kruger, 2003).

A public space is a social space that is generally open and accessible to people. Public spaces including high streets, street markets, shopping precincts, community centers, parks, playgrounds, and neighbourhood spaces in residential areas play a vital role in the social and economic life of the communities (Jan & Anne, 2009; Pancholi *et al*., 2015).

Urban public spaces are acting as a home for street children, a place where they can do their day to day activities. It is also a place where they form their own norms and values, and build a strong friendship which serve as a family. Public spaces should be considered a basic service, with the same priority as transport, water and sanitation which communities often primarily focus their resource on (Sangmo, 2015). Yet the dimensions and limits of what is "public" differs markedly from city to city, region to region, acted on and altered by economic, political, social, and cultural forces (Igor, 2017)

Obviously, the public see them as threat to the community thus to avoid them not to work and live close to their residence or commercial areas. The children also feel that they are not entitled to claim a safe place to work and sleep. A public place such as market places, bus station, main road, ditch, bridge, and

waste dumping site are among the places claimed by street children to live and enjoy.

Street children are seen as a problem, and a threat to society instead of viewed as children with problems who need help from society (Corsaro, 2011). Children perceive that they have no ultimate right to move freely everywhere to work and to sleep. Their movement is limited and their place of residence is also very limited. That limits their interaction with the public. Thus, it is important to make analysis of where children in the street spend their time and find their daily bread. Geospatial technology plays pivotal roles in this regard, particularly in terms of identifying the space that is claimed by street children and the space the public deny the children (Baui, 2008).

In this study a geospatial data were collected by using a GPS tool in order to show the occupation and movement of street children. Geospatial data is information about a physical object that can be represented by numerical values in a geographic coordinate system. Generally speaking, spatial data represents the location, size and shape of an object on planet, earth such as a building, lake, mountain or township. GIS was used to access, visualize, manipulate and analyze geospatial data.

As it indicated earlier, the study focuses on children of the streets, who live on public spaces by involving in different activities for their survival. For this matter GIS and remote sensing techniques is applicable to map their territory and movement through place to place.

2 Materials and Research Methods

2.1 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Gedeo zone which is one of 14 administrative zones found in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPR) of Ethiopia (Figure 1).
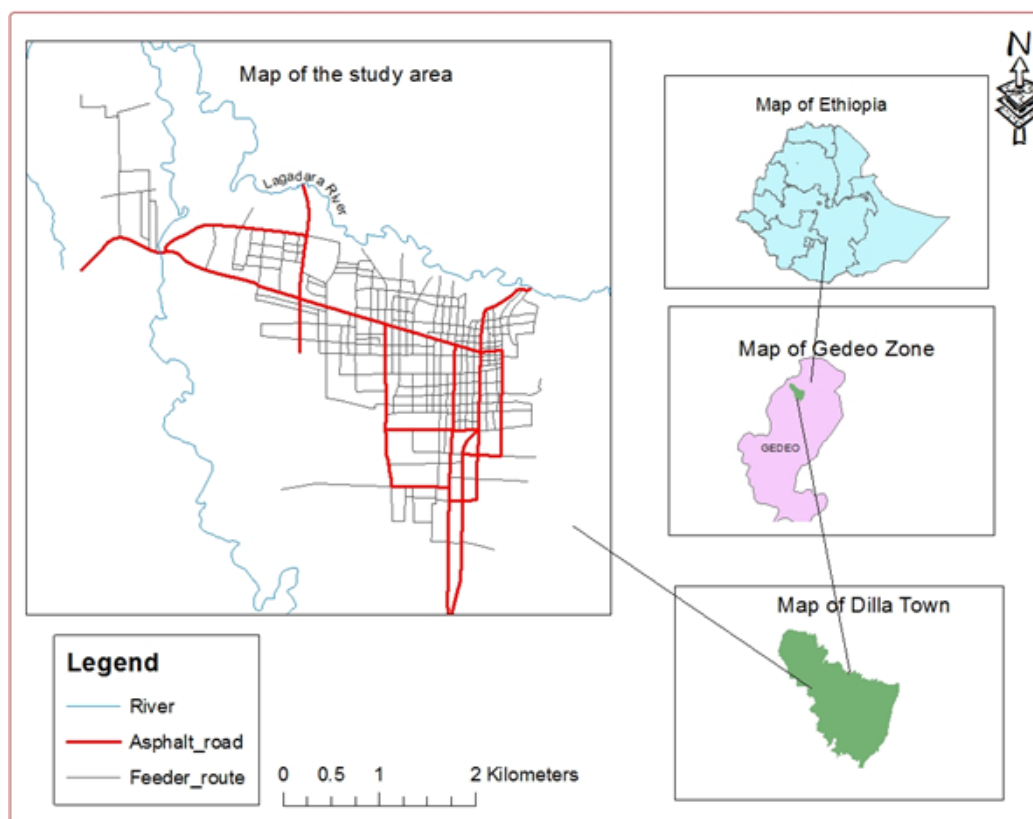

Figure 1 Location map of the study area

There are six Woreda Administrations (districts) and two town administrations under Gedeo zone administration. The administrative capital of Gedeo zone, Dilla Town, is located at 369 kilometers south of Addis Ababa. The zone lies approximately between 6°09′60.00″ N lat, 38°19′60.00′ E longitude (Legesse, 2013). The same authors indicated that it is situated at eastern escarpment of the Great Ethiopian Rift Valley bordering Sidama Zone in the North and, Oromia Regional State in the south, east and west.

According to the recent projection, the total population of the zone was estimated to be 1,079,771 in 2011 E.C., out of which 865,906 were rural inhabitants. With the total land area of 1353 km^2, Gedeo zone has a population density of 853 persons per km^2 and with a population growth rate of 2.9% in the year 2008 E.C (GZFED, 2017). The most densely populated Woreda in the regional state and the country - Wenago- with 1039 persons per square kilometers, is located in this zone.

Nowadays the life style of societies in urban centers is highly interrelated with the use of technologies. In order to fulfil their needs, the development of infrastructure service like road, electricity, water, telecommunication, and postal service plays a vital role.

In the study area, Dilla town, road construction is growing in slow rate. The main asphalt road which connects Ethiopia to Kenya passes through the town. In general, the service of asphalt road covers 21.5 km, gravel road 100.8 km, coble stone 30.32 km and granular sub-base road 67.3 km, it constructed by the collaboration of government and the community (Figure 2).
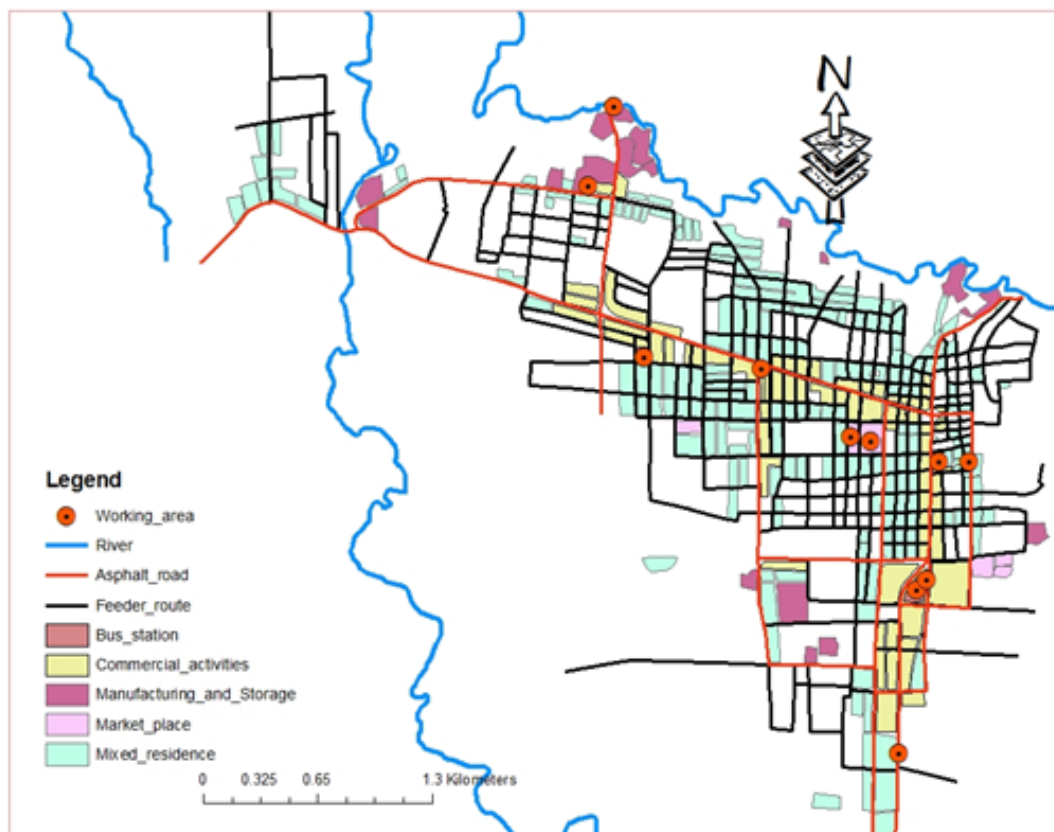

Figure 2 Distribution of road infrastructure in the study area

In Dilla town, there are 20 kindergarten and 30 primary and secondary schools which are owned by both government and private sectors. Upper level Education is also given in Dilla University with two campus OdaYaa and Main campus. In addition, technical, vocational and educational training college (TVET) and teachers training college (TTC) are found in the town giving service to the whole trainers in Gedeo zone (Figure 3).
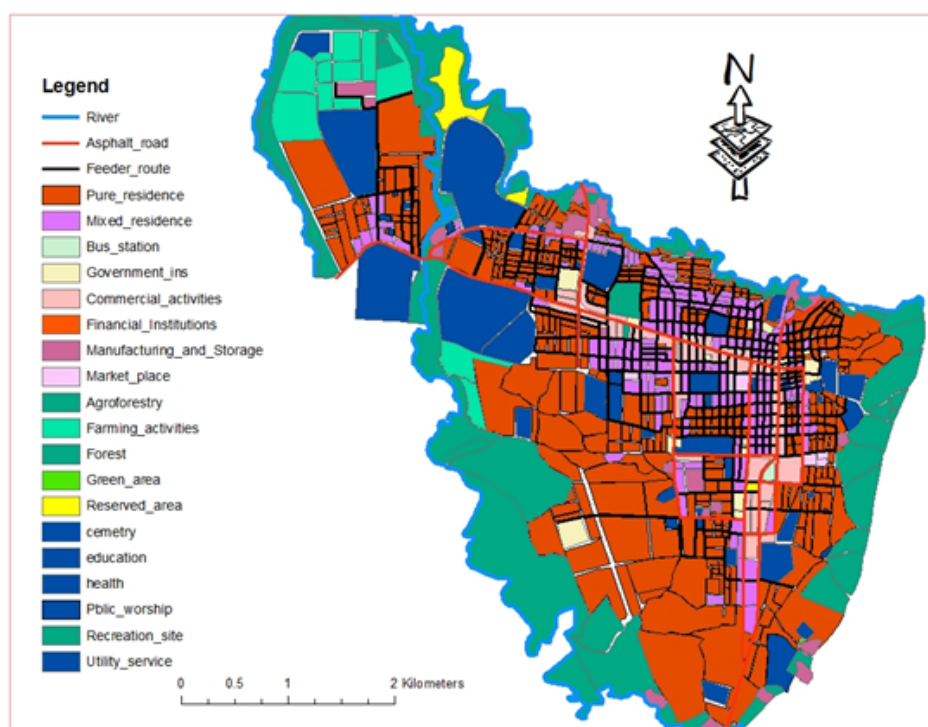

Figure 3 Map of Dilla town with its major function

2.2 Research approach

This sub-section of the article outlines the overall research approach of the study including the research design, specific methods employed in the recruitment of research participants, methods of data collection and analysis of data and reporting and dissemination of the study findings.

The study employed a mixed research approach due to the fact that the study calls for quantitative data and qualitative data as well. The spatial aspect is more covered through the collection and analysis of quantitative data; however, some aspect of the research such as soliciting important data from the children was conducted using qualitative methods. Thus, the study used a mixed research approach.

2.2.1 Research Design

Among the design found under mixed approach, this study employed a concurrent triangulation research design as the research requires gathering of both quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously. For the qualitative aspect, we employed case study to explore and examine in-depth analysis of public space occupation and utilization among street children of Dilla town. For the quantitative the research used a descriptive research.

2.2.2 Data Sources and preparation

Data for this study were obtained from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data were collected directly from street children and key informants. The

secondary data such as reports from official documents were consulted to supplement the primary data. In order to generate spatial data, the Dilla town existing 1:50, 000 topographic maps, and orthophoto were used.

Hardcopy 1:50,000 topographic maps were bought from Ethiopia Geospatial institute the then Ethiopian mapping agency. The maps were scanned and converted to image after which geo-referencing was done. The scanned images were registered to WGS 1984 spheroid and datum and projected using UTM zone 37 N. Geo-referencing was conducted using ERDAS IMAGIN software. Once the images were geo-referenced, an attempt was made to identify and digitize different geographic features.

The other datasets used was orthophoto of 2013 and high resolution images downloaded using SAS Planet application. SAS planet application helps to download images similar to Google earth. The images downloaded from SAS Planet were used to facilitate identification of different geographic features and map the distribution of the different infrastructure based on their functionalities. ARC GIS 10.4 was used to digitize and prepare the required thematic maps. The preparation was supported by collection of ground control points based on the function of different place with respect to street children public space utilization. Garmin GPS was used to collect the ground control points from the different parts of the study area.

The thematic maps necessary to examine utilization of public space by street children were prepared for two major purposes. The first is to carryout participatory mapping with the children, while the other is to show the interaction between the children and the public at large. Different maps were prepared and given to the children to identify and mark place at which they eat, sleep, work, play, bath, wash their cloths, and learn. The maps were printed in A4 size paper.

2.2.3 Methods of Data Collection

To undertake this study different data collection methods were used. The following are the specific data collection methods employed in this study.

2.2.3.1 In-depth Interviews

In this study, we used an in-depth interview as a method of data collection so as to gather first-hand information. Accordingly, in-depth interviews were held with street children in the study area. About 50 street children were interviewed to get a general condition of their life on the street. Furthermore, in-depth interview was held with officials of Dilla town municipality, children, youth and women office and others.

2.2.3.2 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interview was also conducted with officials who work in Women, youth and Children affairs. Key informant interviews were selected based on their experience and knowledge about the issue under investigation. Accordingly, 9 informants were selected from two offices to reflect on the utilization of public space by children on the street.

2.2.3.3 Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were conducted with street children to let them reflect their view on the perception they have about themselves and also the public at large. Some of street children who took part in the focus group discussions were selected purposively on the basis of their willingness. Actually, it was somehow difficult to manage the discussion as the children were not stable to stay with us for a while. Each group was composed of 7 participants. A focus group discussion guide containing a list of questions that are thought to explore the topic under study was prepared and used for this purpose. During discussions, the researchers played the role of moderator.

2.2.3.4 Participatory mapping

The process of participatory mapping can contribute to building community cohesion, help to engage

participants to be involved in resource and land-related decision-making, raising awareness about pressing land-related issues and ultimately contribute to empowering local communities and their members (IFAD ,2009; Juri, 2009).

In order to examine the way children use public spaces, an attempt was made to let children identify and map the different public spaces that children of the streets have been using. The children were given a draft map with marker so that they can easily identify where they live, eat, sleep, and bath, learn and *etc*. The children enjoyed doing identification and marking of different places using the maps provided. The children were able to produce different drawing by themselves without giving the already prepared draft map for participatory mapping. Based on the drawings and the maps produced, an attempt was made to prepare the actual maps showing the places where children claim and vice versa.

2.2.4 Sampling Techniques

This study employed a non-probability sampling techniques mainly, purposive and snow ball sampling to choose the participants. The target population for this study was street children living in the town disregard of their age, gender, where they come from, and their stay in the street. Some of these children are already registered and their number is known while others were not. This makes the process of sample determination somehow difficult. However, for sake of making the sample respondents representative, we decided to take sample from different sites where the children supposed to spend majority of their time. Accordingly, we have chosen Ginbi gebeya*, main bus station, near to Ethiopian telecommunication, main office, Dilla Branch, Molla Golja† area, and Misrke Tsehay Hotel‡.

In this study, we have used a purposive sampling technique to select the study area as well as study participants. We purposively selected Dilla town because the problem of street children is prevalent in this area. In the same manner, key informants were purposively selected.

Thus, only participants who are perceived knowledgeable about street children were included in the study from concerning government offices like Women and Children Affair Office.

We also used a purposive sampling technique to select street children. We purposively selected street children for in-depth interview. Snowball sampling technique was used as a back up to purposive sampling. Accordingly, we used some street children to get other children and to identify where they live. Thus, this sampling technique helped the researcher to get street children during the study. The sample size of the study was determined by the principle of data saturation theory due to the nature of the study.

2.2.5 Methods of Data Analysis

Once the necessary data were collected, an attempt was made to analyse using appropriate methods. Qualitative datasets were analysed thematically based on the research objectives and emerging issues in the process.

The spatial data generated to examine utilization of public space by children were analysed through visual interpretation. The maps that the children work on were used to compare with the actual space utilization identified through field survey and mapped using orthophoto. Comparison was made between the maps worked out by the children and the maps generated through collection ground control points from field.

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* Ginbi Gebeya is a large market center where majority of the inhabitants of the two buy food and other items for home consumption and other purposes.

† Molla Golja area is known for its high concentration of people as it is a junction place and taxi stop. It is also a place where petty trading is very common. The children mostly prefer that area as it provides them access to job and cheap food.

‡ Misrake Tsehay Hotel is a hot spot area for concentration of street chidern due to that fact that it serve as Bajaj transportation stop. Petty trading is also common in the area

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Demographic characteristics of the street children

The age of total respondents ranges from 9-19 years with higher proportion of sample respondents in the age group of 9-12, followed by 13-16, and the remaining 3 children are with the age group of 17-19. During the data collection phase, we couldn't find girls, all the respondents were boys. Finding street girls was difficult because most girls are not exposed to street life like boys and even those girls who are exposed to street life are in most cases in-volved in prostitution than staying on the street. As a result, street girls are less available than boys in the street. According to Lalor (1999) the reason as to why numbers of female street children are small in comparison to male street children as follows: The true incidence of working girls may be hidden by the nature of their work, which tends to be less visible than the work of street boys. For example, females may work as maids in bars, back street hotels and private houses. Street boys, on the other hand, typi-cally engaged in more visible activities such as car washing, shoe shining and peddle (Shimelis, 2015).

Table 1 Age-sex distribution of the respondents

Age group	Male	Female	Percentage
9-12	27	0	54
13-16	20	0	40
17-19	3	0	6
Total	50	0	100

3.2 Major drivers that leads children to live on the street

Street is not a preferable place to live on. There are different reasons that can push or pull children to the street. Poverty, is the main cause followed by child abuse, divorce of parents, death of parents, attraction of the city, addiction of drugs, in need of job, *etc*.

In the study area, most children left their home due to the disagreement with parents. Other reasons like the need of job, family breakdown and others fol-lowed after it. In general, poverty is the main factor to bring those causes and finally lead the children to the streets.

Table 2 Major drivers for street children to live on the street

No.	Drivers that lead to the streets	Frequency	Percentage
1	Death of parents	1	2
2	Conflict with parents	18	36
3	Family breakdown	14	28
4	In need of job	15	30
5	Peer influence	2	4
	Total	50	100

As it indicated in Table 2, more than half of the chil-dren left their home due to the uncomfortable con-ditions at home, and many of them lost their mother due to death/ divorce and do not have smooth rela-tion with their parents mostly with their father. One of the respondents who came from *Gedeb woreda* says the following

"My father was my only reason to leave my home. He always gets drunk and bit my mother. When I was about 8 years my mom died; so I shouldered all the responsibility to take care of my younger sister. I did any work to afford our daily meal. Year after the death of my mother, my father gave my sister to my Aunt. Then I became angry and accidentally hit one of his eyes to left him blind. That moment I run away from him when I see one of his eyes bleeding and came to Dilla town to lead this kind of life".

This kind of reasons/ disagreement between children and their step or real parents/ cannot be solved with a short time orientation or a promise of change; rather it needs a continuous assessment till a permanent change is observed. Mostly reuniting children to alcoholic parents is like putting them to the fire.

3.3 Public space occupation and utilization by street children

This section of the study tries to view the occupation, movement and utilization of public space by street children. There exist different locations by which street children are found: public space such as market places, bus station, different business areas and street corners, ditches, bridges and others. They don't occupy space which they assume is claimed by urban dwellers. For instance, they assume that they have no right to occupy any spaces which is close to residential area, governmental offices, commercial areas and other public spaces. According to their perception, their space is an open space which is not claimed by anyone such as ditch, bridge, along the roadside, and market place. An attempt was made to identify and map the space occupied by the children by categorizing into working place/space, sleeping space, bathing and washing space and space in which they eat food. Detail of the space used by the children is presented in the sub-sequent sub-sections.

3.3.1 Working areas of street children

Street children are daily workers though they are too young to perform different activities as they supposed to earn income for their survival. In every crowded public business spot, it is possible to find street children. In Dilla town public business cen-

ters like bus station, market center, grain mill areas, shopping centers, 15th street and also local market areas are the main hot spot areas where they look for jobs. They perform different jobs like fetching water, carrying luggage for passengers, carrying different item, washing dishes, *etc*.

The children have a specific place of work depending on their age, living area and also their sociability. For instance in *Ginb Gebeya*; it is possible to find several children, whose age is less than 16 as compared to other areas. In this area, we interviewed 15 children; all of them are below the age of 16. This is because of the wide range of access for job without any exclusion. In addition, this place is not much preferable by older children, because the income is very less. This happens for two reasons one for their age and the second is the availability of extra human power.

In the contrary children of bus station area and *Asra amestegna menged* (15th street) get better income relatively to those who spend around market area; due to the lesser number of street children and lot of job options like carrying luggage, washing dishes; fetching water. Sometimes they help passengers to find accommodation; in return the owner of the hotel gives them a tip. Comparatively, children of the 15th street get much better income from the bus station. They are much older, stronger, and also with a better experience of urban life. They fetch water, carry items, give a delivery service and works in flour factories to load quintals of flour to the loader and deliver it to different branches. In general, it is also common to see them in the ditches and around waste disposal sites to search for any sort of unused iron materials and sell it to trash collector.

As it is indicated on the figure 4, street children are looking for job at crowded areas where the need of man power is high. General market area, bus station, grain mills area and also factories are the best sites for street children to generate income. On contrary, these crowded areas create suitable condition for theft. Some other children with families generate income via begging at street junction area and also around religious institutions.
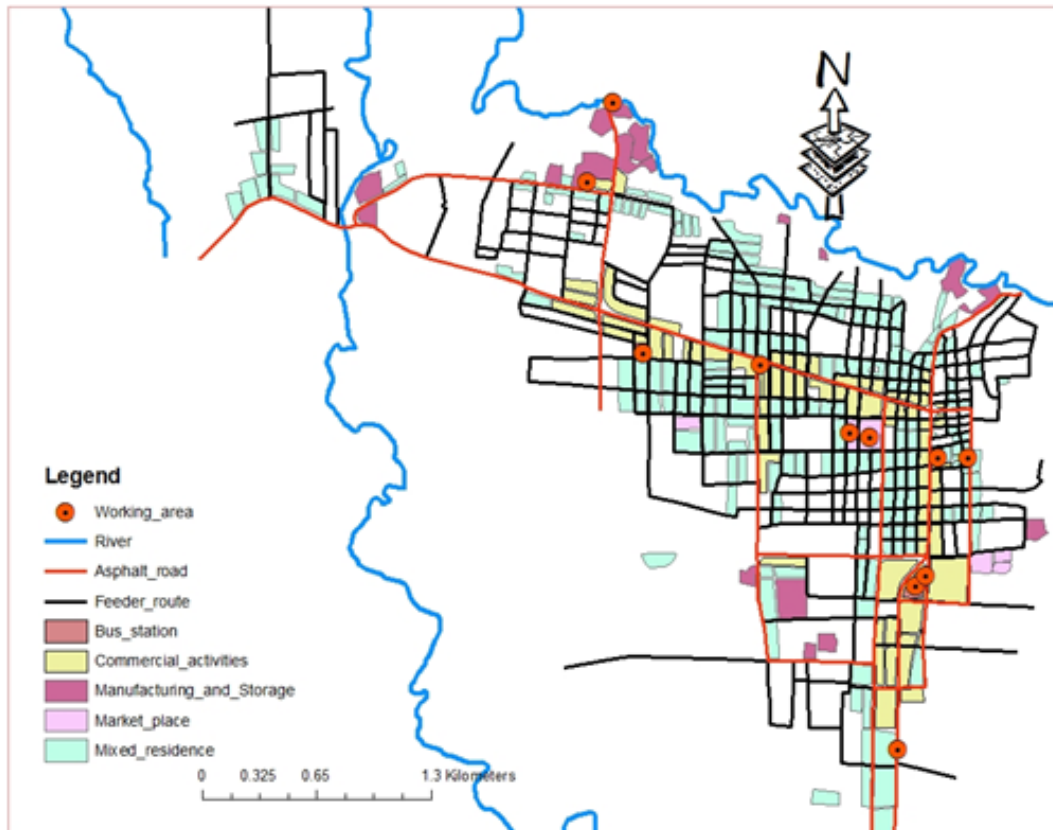
Figure 4 Working areas of street children

3.3.2 Where do they eat?

Food is one of the basic needs of human beings. Street children purchase their food at public spaces. There are some common and known areas that give service for street children and other daily workers. As it is shown on figure 5, those places are found at the back yard of telecommunication, at the left side of *Misrake Thsehay* hotel, at the surrounding area of bus station, at the ending street of general market and on the corners of the main asphalt road. The places are found nearby their working areas and food is being sold at a very fair price. Telecommunication is found in Bedecha sub-city and workers

of this area can easily get their meal three times in a day since the area has a lot of road side vendors who sell food items. The same is true for bus station and market area street meal services. The site selection of meal service at *Misrake tsehay* hotel is slightly different. In that area only few street children are found; it is also not their working area. It is found at the main road which takes to *Kebado* and *Odolla kebeles* (areas found in Sidama Regional State). It gives service only after evening because it is a time for children on the street and other daily workers to return to their home; so they have their dinner along on their way.
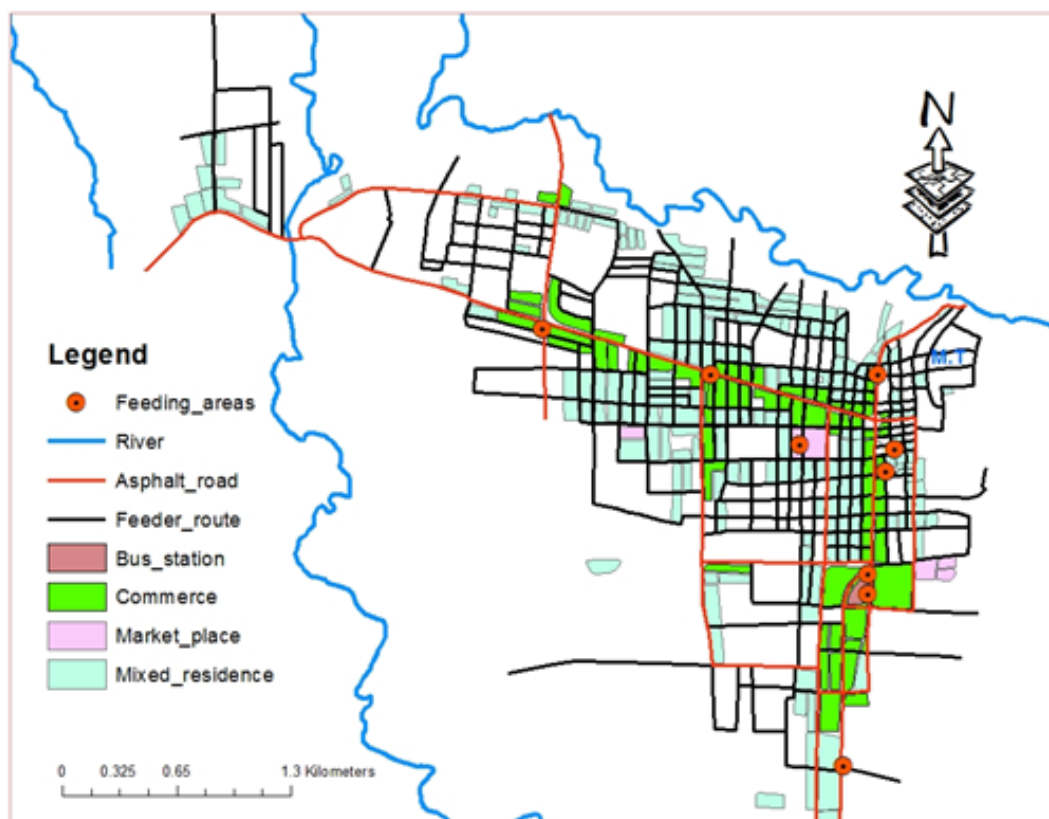
Figure 5 Feeding areas of street children

3.3.3 Where do they sleep?

For children of the street, night time is their worst moment because they are beaten, stolen, raped, face dangerous animals like hyena at their early age. In order to minimize these problems, they prefer to sleep at the main road under the street lights; around some governmental organizations like Gedeo zone administration, Dilla town municipality, and police station, *etc*. and also around schools where they can get the protection of the guard. Most of the time, they prefer to sleep by forming groups and they do not allow any one from other groups to join their group because they feel secured when they sleep with their friends.

As it is indicated in figure 6, a large number of street

children sleep at the corners of the main Asphalt road. Some others sleep at Sesa sub-city mixed residence areas locally named (*Mariyam Sefer*) and *Bedecha* sub-city mixed residence area and a few numbers of children sleep at *kirinchaf* primary school and Dilla high school surroundings. It is clear that they do not sleep on pure residential areas because the community's perception towards them isn't good. They are perceived as thief. They stated that:

The community does not accept them as a child; they even do not allow us to sleep around their residence because for them we are thieves and source of violence. Beside this, at residence areas it is difficult to get a shelter at rainy seasons while at commercial areas it is possible to use the shades and verandas of shops.
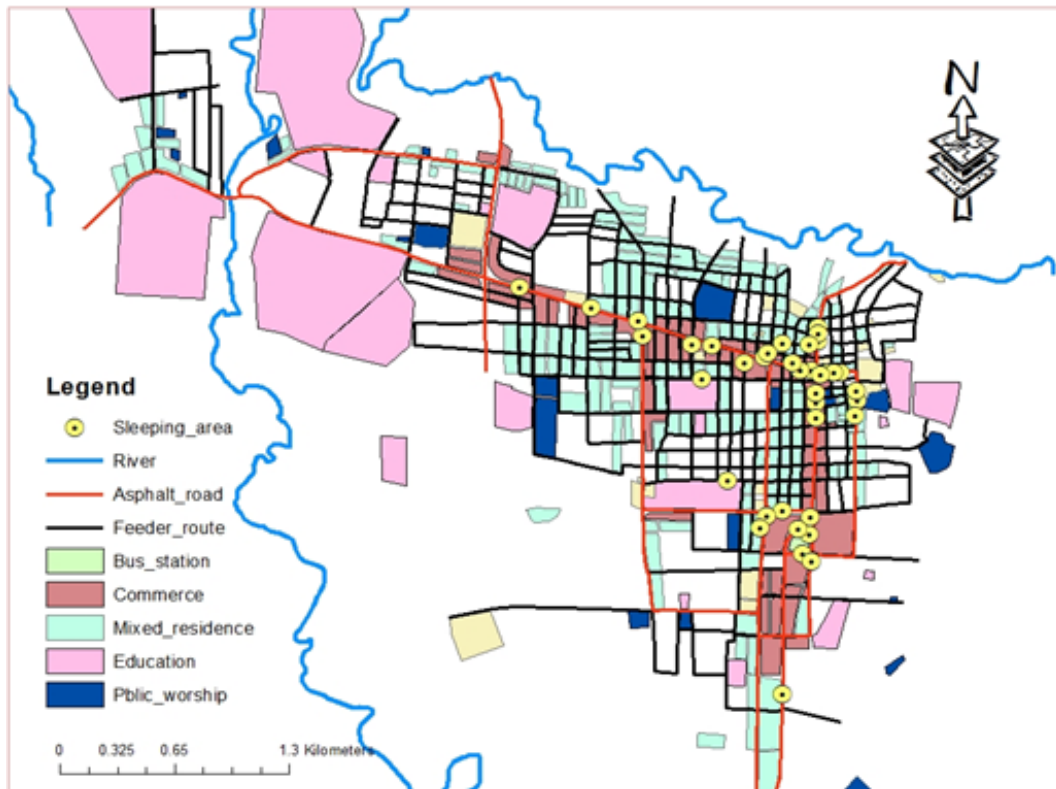
Figure 6 Sleeping areas of street children

There are some individuals who rent house for some street children with low cost for sleeping purpose. These houses are locally named '*Kesha Bet*'. Therefore, some children who do not prefer to sleep on the street have an option to sleep at *Kesha bet* (Figure 7).

For some children, even if it is crowded and some of the boys can get drunk and violent, it is better than to sleep at the streets, while some others do not prefer the houses because it is full of bug. So everywhere it is common to see street children who sniff kerosene gas with plastics, to stifle hunger and numb the cold at night.

Figure 7 A *Kesha Bet* at 5th street

3.3.4 Access to public toilets

Greater access to toilets means greater access to the community as well as the world. Free toilet provision in public places, such as city centers, squares, stations, parks and at every crowded areas is necessary to build a healthy and clean environment.

In Dilla town, there are five public toilets which give service to the communities. These toilets are found within general market area, two local market areas and also at bus station areas. In comparison to the past years, the trend of using public toilets is increasing. But still our public spaces ditches and other open land areas are abolished with the waste of street children.

As it is indicated on figure 8, the children used to pee within the ditches, at the corners of the schools, within hidden areas. One of the children around general market area says "we have to go to the toilet early in the morning, before the streets are crowded. People say, "There are public toilets," but people have to pay to use them and we don't have the money."
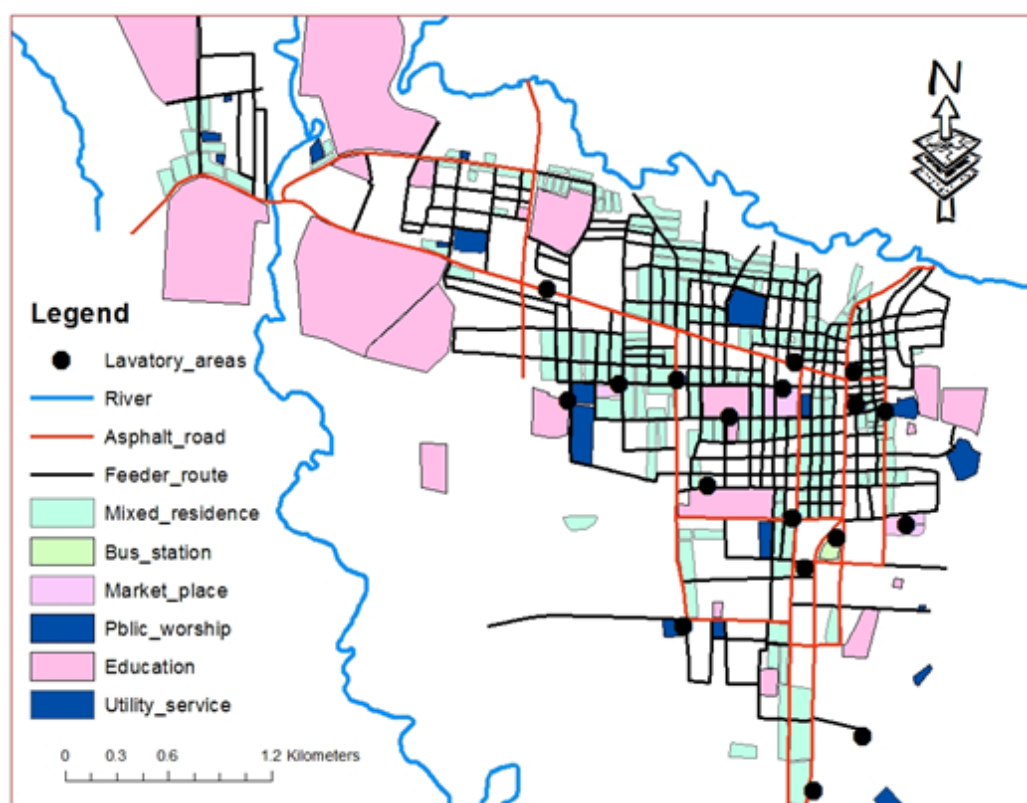

Figure 8 Lavatory areas of street children

In addition, the availability of the public toilet is not enough to the community including street children. The children are not well informed about the benefit of using public toilet and also have no awareness as how they use it. Also the concerned body do not give attention to decommission the full one. Due to the reason the problem of public toilet is acute and serious problem in Dilla town.

3.3.5 Playground/ Where do they play?

Like any child a street child needs to play and have a fun. And whenever they need to play; they play with a hand playing games. Figure 9 indicates areas where their playground resides on. These playing instruments found nearby to telecommunication meal service area, at the areas of market area and at bus station. They paid to play it. In addition, they watch

movie at a house which is found in market area. As all other services, the play grounds of street children are found far from pure residence areas; they play with their street friends at similar social status, this indicates that they are not only stigmatized by adults but also with children at the same age at them. In addition, they played games at a very low price comparing to the home children.
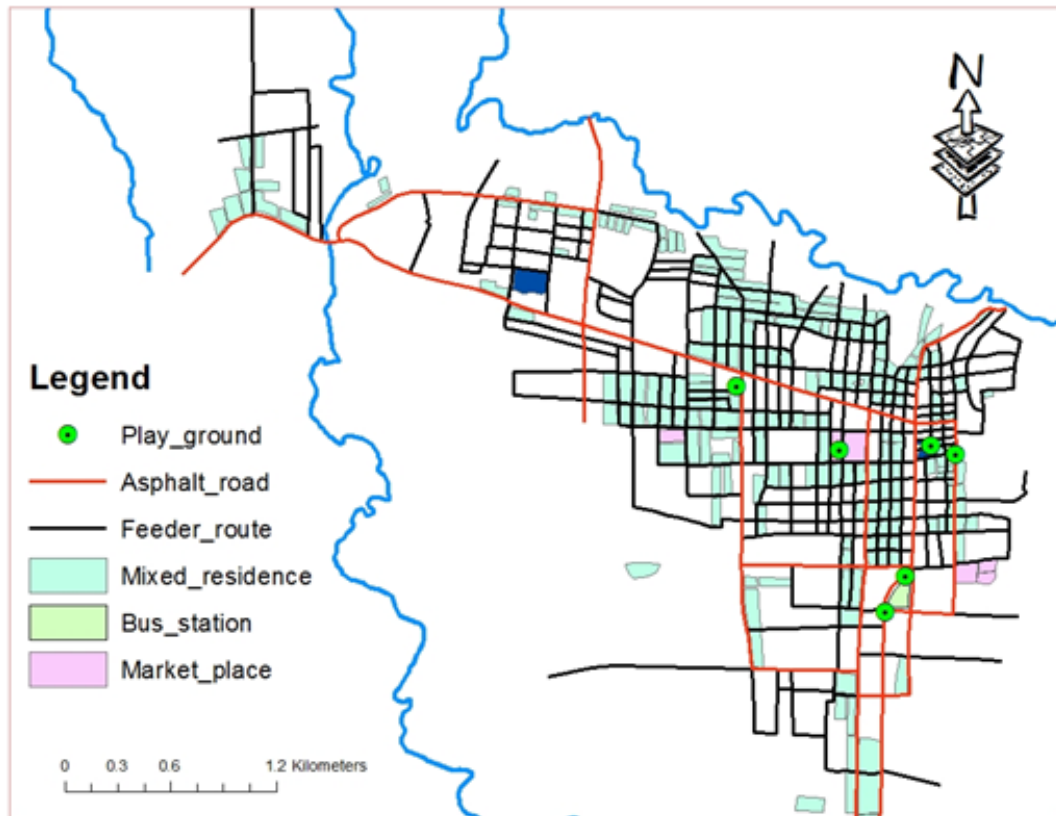

Figure 9 Playground of street children

3.3.6 Sanitation areas

In order to get clean up the children has to walk far to the Lagadara River. But due to its distance and their lack of knowledge for health, they do not wash their body and clothes for more than a month. So, by creating easy access for bathrooms it is possible to minimize skin and other related diseases.

As it is shown in figure 10, street children should walk more than 1km to the river to get cleaned up.

This is due to river is a common property for all residents, no one can limit them and also it is for free. But currently, one public bathroom at the general market area is opened, so the health sanitation officers and the town municipality together should give attention to the health situation of the children and also to create conducive environment for all. Therefore, it would be better to open more public bathrooms and letting them use it for free.
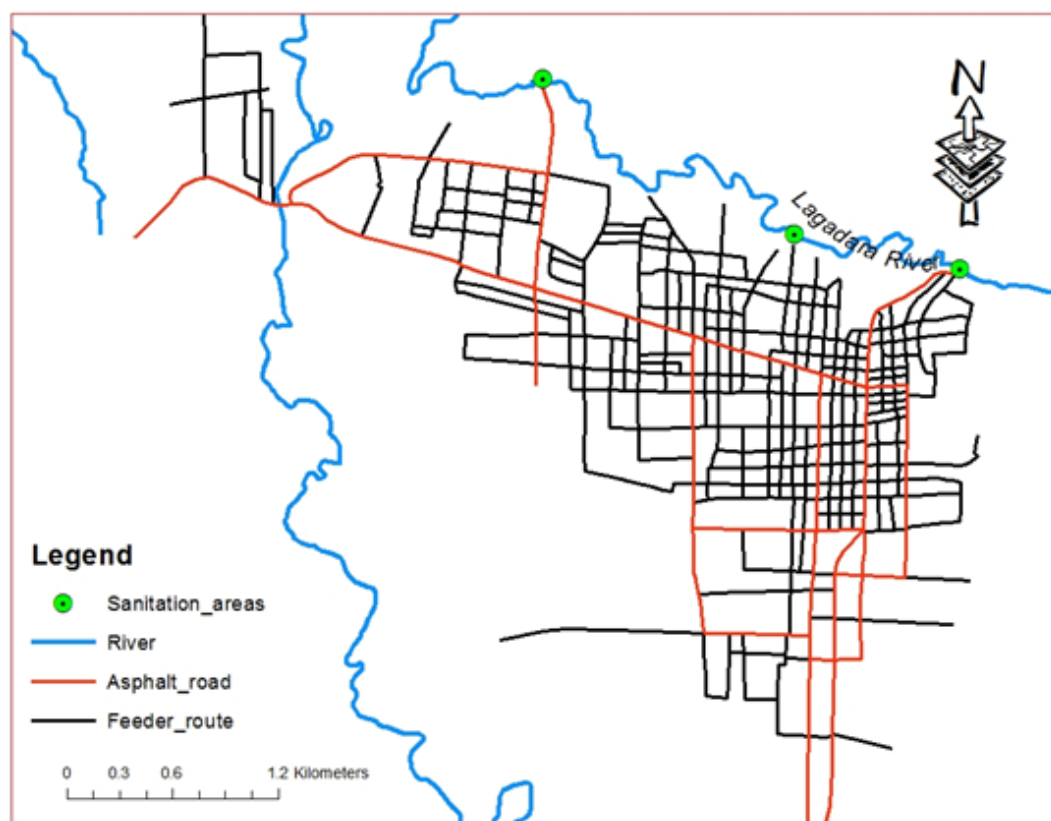
Figure 10 Sanitation areas for the street children

3.3.7 Perception of the public/ community about street children

Street children are assumed to be not part of the larger community; they form small community on their own; a sub-culture, which grows within a larger culture. The children have built a lower self-esteem for themselves; for this matter they feel like they belong to the street. They are ruled by their own norms and values which is different from the social norm of the larger community. So, due to their way of living and inability to cope up with the environment, societal and economic difference, they isolate themselves from the pure residence areas and bound stick to the public spaces.

The society also threatens them as outsiders rather than as children to be nurtured and protected. Thus, they are both spatially and socially oppressed, through multiple forms of social control, marginalization, and powerlessness. Due to their way of dressing, sanitation problem, and also deviant behaviour the community reject them to share their pure residence area with them. For instance, due to the existence of street children, *Bedecha* sub-city mixed residence area is known as a criminal zone.

The interaction between the community and street children differed through places and with time. At working areas, they are perceived as daily workers, around churches and road junction, they are treated as beggars, and while during the night, they have the image of thieves. Hence, in our town standard and even as a whole country except a few cities, public spaces are not clean, and attractive to use it as a recreation center for the community.

4 Conclusion

During the study, the researchers have explored the critical life conditions of street children. They do not have any access to the basic necessities like shelter, drinking water, food, bathroom. . . and so on. They are living in hunger; they do not have shelter at the rainy or sunny days; they do not have access to education, they are drug abused, raped, neglected, and also they do not get medical treatment. These are children who do not live their childhood as a child.

The English philosopher Harbert spencer talked about the survival of the fittest in his principle of sociology, I do agree with his quotes. In our view of street children, the one who works harder has a better access to buy his daily meal, while others who keep looking for food in trashes may end up in sniffing motor gases. For instance, a child who lives and works in bus station area has a better access to job and gain income, while others who work in Market areas are highly starved.

Street children are not found in pure residence areas because they are sources of fear to the communities. The mixed residence areas where street children sleep are known for criminal activities. Therefore, the communities as well as the younger street children are the victims of the criminal acts. As a result of this fear, street children prefer to sleep at the corners of the main Asphalt road, around schools, also at governmental institutions like EEPCO and Telecommunication.

In addition, their behavior is shaped by their environment they live on. Therefore, a street child who lives in *Bedecha* sub city becomes violent because it is a local alcohol trading center; others who live in *Molla-Golja* areas are drug abused because they have a higher tendency to get empty plastics of motor gas; others who live in first street junction areas are beggers because most of them are children of street family. On the other hand, children of Bus station areas are comparatively lead a better life. Finally, street children of 15th street are responsible for their actions because they live in the town center for a very long time and adopted the environment.

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