

**SSENKUNGU PADDY (2014 – M092 – 20036)**

**Effectiveness of Community Care Options towards the Wellbeing of Street Children: A Case Study of Nyendo/Ssenyange Division, Masaka District.**

This study examined the effectiveness of intervention strategies applied by key players in addressing the problem of street children in Nyendo/Ssenyange division and the challenges faced in regard to the same. This research adopted a case study design that utilised a qualitative research approach. Purposive and convenience sampling were applied in data collection with the use of focus group discussion checklists, observation guide and interview guides.

The findings indicated that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the church have assumed the role of state in combating the street children problem. The study found out that the community care options applied in Nyendo/Ssenyange division seem inadequate to address the complex causes of street children. Many shortcomings and challenges were found to limit the church and NGOs' efforts to accomplish their mission of preventing the migration of children onto the streets, improve the wellbeing of children already living on the streets and re-address the imbalances in the social, economic and political power that lead children to the streets. It is essential to examine what can be done to protect children from going to streets. This paper recommended to government strengthening the implementation of the child protection policies and laws at all levels in order to ensure the safety and security of street children in their environments. Government was also advised to support the established rehabilitation centres. Parents should take their role of caring and providing for their children seriously and stop domestic violence. Lastly, government ought to facilitate construction of regional children remand homes to avoid minor law breakers on street from being detained with adults in prisons where they learn more bad behaviours plus being assaulted.

**Key Words: Community Care, Street Children, Masaka District**