

St. Philippe Rescue Center in an Area of high Prevalence of HIV Infection in Kisumu and Street Work for Street Boys in Nairobi

T. Rusnak (Thomas Rusnak)¹, Z. Ondrusova (Zlata Ondrusova)⁵, M. Olah (Michal Olah)⁵, P. Bryndzak (Pavel Bryndzak)⁵, P. Laca (Peter Laca)⁵, M. Schavel (Milan Schavel)⁵, D. Giertlova (Daniela Giertlova)⁵, D. Kimuli (Daria Kimuli)², P. Vasko (Peter Vasko)³, I. Duris (Ivan Duris)⁴, I. Kmit (Igor Kmit)⁵, K. Mulama (Katrina Mulama)⁴, E. Grey (Eva Grey)⁵

Original Article

¹ St. Philippe Neri Rescue Centre SEU University Anti-malnutritional Program Kisumu, Kenya.

² St. Philippe Neri School Joshka, St. John Paul II School of Missiology SEU Bratislava in Joshka, Kenya.

³ Oasis of peace love and mercy, Nairobi, Kenya.

⁴ Dr.David Roden Tikit Mission health centre, West Pokot, Kenya.

⁵ Dept. of Tropical Diseases, Slovak Medical University Bratislava, Slovakia.

E-mail address:

frolinek@gmail.com

Reprint address:

Tomas Rusnak
St. Philip Neri rescue center
P. O. Box 68
40100 Kisumu
Kenya

Source: *Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention*
Pages: 20 – 22

Volume: 12
Cited references: 2

Issue: 1

Reviewers:

Vitalis Okoth
Hargeisa, Somalia
Johnson Mawole
Nyanza, Tanzania

Keywords:

Street boys. HIV.

Publisher:

International Society of Applied Preventive Medicine i-gap

CSWHI 2021; 12(1): 20 – 22; DOI: 10.22359/cswhi_12_1_04 © Clinical Social Work and Health Intervention

Abstract:

This short communication focuses on a comprehensive sports-housing-education program as part of HIV and other communicable disease prevention. Street boys in Kisumu are managed as indoor and 70 as outdoor social work clients. In Nairobi, a similar Center by St. Mother Theresa Fathers and Brothers are daily taking care of about 50-100 street children in one of the largest slum, serving food and pastoral assistance; helping those ; those addicted to glue and other available inhalational narcotics. The abstaining willing street boys are invited to join the community.

Introduction

Street boys in slums of large African Urban settings such as Kibera in Nairobi or Soweto in Johannesburg are probably the largest concentrations of youth associated social pathology worldwide. Here we present two examples of effective street work programs: one in Kisumu, focused on the strategy to bring the children from street to school and sports, in a large HIV prevalence City of Kisumu; and vice versa, an street work program focused on narcotic cessation as an exchange for food and potential sheltering in one of the largest slums in Africa in Kibera, Nairobi.

Settings and Methods

Kisumu is a town in the highest endemic area for HIV and malaria. Near Lake Victoria, in Western Kenya it has a population of up to 150,000; Nairobi has more than 10 million, with at least 6 large slum areas the largest in Kibera with about 950,000 people living in critical housing and poverty conditions. First setting in Kisumu is using full board shelter to attract street boys including sport and education. A second project is using food and potential upgrade to their community for those who voluntary accept the cessation of glue, gasoline or other inhalational substance use.

Results and Discussion

The spectrum of social pathology and three major killer diseases is in table 1. As in Kisumu, substance use is less frequent but HIV and Malaria common. In Nairobi crime and substance inhalational use is more common. Due to altitude, malaria is less frequent and Hiv under better control due to active screening by the government and NGOs.

Table 1: Spectrum of Social Pathology in two sites of active social intervention for street boys

Social pathology	Kisumu	Nairobi-Kibera
Substance inhal.use	rare	frequent
Illiteracy	common	less
Malnutrition	less	common
Crime	less	common
HIV malaria	more	less
Tuberculosis	less	more

The worst stages of substance inhalational abuse - so called gasoline and glue dementia may be seen in Nairobi slums, where the number of street boys may exceed 100,000 and therefore street work is more dangerous for social workers. Sports and education is offered to those willing to join the St. Philippe Neri Community in Kisumu.

Conclusion

Motivational street work with incentives such as food, shelter, day center created hygiene, sports, education is an important factor to improve the motivation of street boys for a better future. Very important. if not crucial. is also the pastoral work and offer of various religious services for this vulnerable group of population.

References

1. PROCHAZKOVA K., KOVAC R, OLAH M *et al* (2018) *High threshold shelters in an urban large setting*, Clinical Social Work Journal, 2018. 9. 44.
2. PERI H A, SUBRAMANIAN S, SLADECKOVA V, BYDZOVSKY J, DURCOVA B,

KUBALIKOVA Z, OLAH M, MATULNIKOVA L, DOKTOROV A, BERESOVA A, KUBIK F, FULA M, OTRUBOVA J, KALATOVA D, KUKUCKOVA E, JURINOVA S, BENCA J, SHAHUM A, HOY LEANG HOINAND CHENG HOIN, SETA S/ *Early detection of adverse therapy reaction in orphan children with AIDS* (short communication) / In: Acta Missiologica. - ISSN 1337-7515. - Vol. 13, no. 2 (2019) p. 184-187.