



THE INEFFECTIVE SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL POLICIES ON STREET CHILDREN PHENOMENON IN AKWA DOUALA 1

Susan Pembe Ikona (PhD)

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Buea

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36713/epra10141>

DOI No: 10.36713/epra10141

ABSTRACT

This paper study the consequences of ineffective social¹ and educational policies² on the phenomenon of Street Children³ in Cameroon the case of Akwa within the Douala I sub-Division. Despite the negative life entails in the street, these children have come up with strategies to enable them overcome the hazards and ugly face of the street. This guarantees their long stay away from home. My main interest is to find out to what extent social control mechanism manage the phenomenon of street children in Cameroon whereas all effort made to retrieve them only lead to their increasing numbers. Based on findings; over a period of 8 years Cameroon has a total of 170000 street children and the mechanism put in place for reintegration back to families is weak and slow. This research will contribute to the amelioration of the socio-educational policies of the state and private social services on how to manage the policies of street children in Cameroon.

KEY WORDS: Street children, social policy, educational policy, Akwa

1. INTRODUCTION

Historically, Street children phenomenon in Cameroon can be traced officially to the early 1980s, when a handful of children called “poters”⁴ in the streets of big cities used to offer to carry groceries bought by women in market places. By the end of the 80s, the number had multiplied from a handful to a few hundreds. Today, MINAS⁵ estimate the number is four-fold. Yaoundé alone has an estimated 900 street children (MINAS 1993:12) while the city of Douala has an estimated 6800 street children DDAS-WI⁶ (2016). From 1986, International Organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Organisation (UNO), United Nations International Children and Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Bank (WB), etc., estimated the number of street children to be between 30 and 70 million. In 1994-1995, the number was between 100 and 130 million worldwide, with 40 million in Latin America, 5 million in Africa, 70 million in Asia and the rest in the other continents. In the course of time, the phenomenon has been amplified and aggravated for African countries because of galloping urbanisation and ineffective social, educational and economic policies. UNICEF (2004) estimates that Cameroon has about 17000 street children. According to UNICEF (1984), street children constitute a multifaceted phenomenon that can be divided into at least three categories: children on the street, children at risk, and children of the street. According to Lalor (1999), the category of children on the streets is made up of children working on the streets in order to survive. These children generally belong to a family, return home at night (Le Roux, 1996), and are under their parents’ protection. It is household poverty that pushes these children onto the street. For instance, children on the street contribute up to 30% of household income (Rizzini and Lusk, 1995; ILO, 1996). This is the largest category of street children. The category of children at risk includes the urban poor who form a reservoir of street children. The last category, that of children of the street, is a multifaceted one, comprising several sub categories; abandoned, orphan, and runaway children. Densley and Joss (2000) state that children of the streets which is our study concerned regard the street as their home. It is the place where they live, where they work and develop strong social bonds and social network with other children of the streets. They view their family ties in a negative light. These three categories are closely linked. The category of children on the street feeds into that of children at risk, which itself feeds into that of children of the street. Child maltreatment neglect and abuse have been identified as some of the major contributing factors resulting from ineffective socio-educational and economic policies leading to social ills such as prostitution, juvenile delinquency and street children. Street children is a phenomenon which exists all over the world and refers to a category of children. For various reasons, these children defy parental and states authority and make the streets their home. This phenomenon which is referred locally in Douala,

¹ Social policies; guidelines that seals with communal issues.

² Educational policy, instructive and helping guides to educate in an educational establishment or institutions

³ Street children; a child who lives or spend most of their in the streets

⁴ Poters; common name given to children who carry loguages for people for money

⁵ MINAS ; Ministry of Social Affairs in Cameroon

⁶ DDASWI ; Délégation Départementale des Affaires Sociales du Wouri



Cameroon as “nanga mboko⁷”, or “les boy⁸”, appellation for the boys and “les waka⁹” or ‘les vendes des piment’ ie commercial sex is appellation for the girls is very visible around the looks and corners of the cities at all time of the day. The main activity of these children is theft and though they may pretend to undertake other activities. It will never be enough to say that the home is the best place for the harmonious development of every child. On the contrary, the children who have cut off all link with their families are forced to live on begging, eat left over food by customers at eating points, engaged in dangerous activities and are later initiated into gangs by their leaders and get involved in other social ills. Whoever talks of reinsertion, talks of identifying, retrieval and training preferably professional and if the work is well done, the socio-economic and educational impacts become visible.

Street Children with the exception of a few find in order to hide their real identities, they take upon themselves to come up with street names commonly referred to “Alias”. For examples they named as Alias Colonel, Alias 400 Ngoma, Alias Kolo, Alias le Tamisieur just to name a few. The increase attention given to child wellbeing is rooted deep in Cameroonian tradition and culture. Unfortunately, due to the *laissez faire* of some socio educational policies on the vulnerable populations, many children find themselves in the streets for survival. Generally, street children begin abandoning their family homes at the age of 10, but this behaviour takes a greater amplitude after the age of 15 because of three major factors;

The consequences of academic selection that operates between primary and secondary education known as “the phenomenon of school deprecation”, that tends to send those children characterised by school failures to the streets.

The inability of certain parents to support the payment of school fees for their children after primary level for different reasons (insufficient or non-existing resources, the economic and financial crises that have affected Cameroon and led to drastic salary cuts in 1990s, which changed the behavior of some individuals and destabilized the equilibrium of most households, constituting a serious handicap to the caretaking of children by most parents and thus pushing children into the streets.

The irresponsibility of certain parents, lack of child spacing and a concise and planned policy of responsible parenthood, support by financial subsidies or subventions to the needy and vulnerable in Cameroon. (MINAS, 1993).

Currently, the Ministry, in association with communities and some Councils, has established the “Project to Fight the Phenomenon of Street Children”, aimed at offering psycho-social care, and bolstered the intake capacities of specialized centers and took measures to enable some of them return to their homes. For example, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), has provided care for vulnerable children in Bamenda, Northwest Region, Douala in the Littoral, and Yaoundé in the Center Region, through the “Key Interventions to Develop Systems and Services for Orphans and Vulnerable Children” (KIDSS) project. Progress in retrieving these children is still very slow, as the number of street children increased by the day. With the advent of decentralisation, councils are expected to address more of the issues at the local level as the management of social centers is placed under their responsibility. Faced with such a situation, it is important to raise the awareness of all social actors on our common responsibility of solidarity towards these children, and to take collective, effective, and sustainable measures so as to reinforce the socio educational policies on this phenomenon. It is within this framework that the study on Street Children in Akwa Douala was carried out. It also provides comprehensive data on the factors and effects of this phenomenon, and evaluates the ineffectiveness of current interventions and policies.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Area of Study

Douala is the largest City in Cameroon as well as an ethnic group. They primarily inhabited the Littoral in 1937. It is the economic capital of Cameroon. Divided into Akwa, Bassa, Bonaberi, Bonapriso, Bonanjo, Deido and New Bell. It covers a total area of 210km² and was ranked the most expensive City in Africa (2015). It is located on coordinates 04.03’ N009°4/E at an elevation of 13m above sea level. It is said to be the richest city in the CEMAC zone that comprises Gabon, Congo, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic. It handles most of the country major exports thanks to the existence of the largest Sea port and the International Airport. As of 2010, the city counts an estimated population of over 3 000 000 inhabitants. The climate type is tropical. Hence Douala I Sub-Division which is our field is one out of the six Sub-Divisions that count the Wouri Division with headquarters in Bonanjo which is mainly administrative. Geographically, this study is limited to Akwa, with study locations within Akwa, Douala Bar, AXA, Sandagar, Mbappe lepe stadium, Paris dancing, MTN–Akwa Palace, Campero, Douche municipal.

2.2. Sample Techniques

Akwa, was purposively selected from the six Sub-Divisions that count the Wouri Division. (New Bell headquarters of the Douala II, Logbaba for the Douala III, Bonaberi for Douala IV and Bepanda for Douala V, Douala VI headquarter on the Island of Manoka) for the study. This choice was made because of the dominance of street children in the zone. A random sampling technique was applied to select 8 strategy zone Douala Bar, AXA, Sandagar, Mbappe lepe stadium, Paris dancing, MTN–Akwa Palace, Campero, Douche municipal. Quota sampling technique helped me to identify the category in which the case will be selected to reach a predetermined

⁷ Nanga mboko, name given to street children especially to male of the street.

⁸ Les boy; delinquent children who leave a ware ward life in the streets.

⁹ Les waka; especially to girls who do prostitution for a living.



number of cases in each category. This involves the establishment of face-to-face contact with the respondents to build up the required sample used to identify the street children in these 8 zones. This was done with the assistance of the Delegation of Social Affairs in Douala. The population identified was 15 each from the 8 zones respectively. Because the sample were not so many, all of them were used for the study, giving a total sample size of 120 respondents. It also studied other variables like age, sex, level of education and the matrimonial regimes of parents of street children.

2.3. Data Collection

Data for the study were collected by means of a well-structured and pre-tested questionnaire complemented by personal interview. Data were collected on the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents,

2.4. Validation of Research Instrument

Copies of the interviewed questions were given to experienced Social Welfare Experts for validation. They were provided with clear guidelines on what they were expected to do in a letter that accompanied the questionnaires including the purpose of the study, the research questions and hypotheses to be tested. This ensured not only the face validity of the questionnaire but also its content validity. We also pilot-tested the questionnaire in the Regional Delegation of Social Affairs for the Littoral and also in the Divisional Delegation of Social Affairs for the Wouri, all in the town of Douala.

2.5. Data Analysis

Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics which included the use of mean, frequency distribution, percentages and tables.

$$\% = \frac{\text{Number of responses per option} \times 100}{\text{Total number of responses}}$$

Mean scores and standard deviations were also used for data analysis.

Inferentially, the mean opinions of the respondents have been calculated and used to infer the overall opinion of the respondents based on the critical value as follows:

$$\text{Critical mean value for opinions} = \frac{4+3+2+1}{5} = 2.00$$

Respondents disagree if calculated mean value of opinion is less than 2.0

Respondents agree if calculated mean value of opinion is greater than 2.0

Standard deviations have been used because they describe the spread of variability of the opinions of the respondents.

SA= strongly agreed, A=agreed, SA=strongly disagreed, D= disagreed, N= neutral.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.

3.1. The socio economics characteristics of street children phenomenon

Distribution of Respondents by Gender sum up to 76 males was sample given a percentage of 63.3%. the female population was 44, with percentage 36.7% making a total of 100% from a sample of 120. it was also observed that the male population is more venerable than the female. This is because the male resists the hash and hard street conditions and most of organisation and policies lay more emphasis in the rehabilitation of the female sex to male. The small number of street girls is thought to be because they face less physical violence in the home than boys and they support harder living home conditions. It is also difficult for them to run away from home instead they are able support and accept poverty within the home, and to seek support from their relatives. Consequently, they easily and commonly work as domestic workers in order to earn a living.

Ages reveals that a majority 83.3% of street children are between the ages of 14 –18, while a small but significant proportion 16.7% are 10 –13 years old. It was also observed the children in the age category of 10 to 14 are orphans of either both parent or single parents. Ages 15 to 16 are adolescent who need much parental and guardian care and control. with little or no care, the take upon them the free way of life thereby ending them in the street.

3.2. The factors responsible for the departure of children to the streets.

Factors that push children into the street vary and that with the highest percentage is voluntary departure that stands at 21%. This can be analysed by the fact that globalization with its doctrine on child’s right has becoming a conquer worm as very few children allow themselves to be reproached due to the misinterpretation and misconception of the term. They turn to manifest their weaknesses by taking to the street to enjoy the liberty it offers. Child abuse that stands at 16% takes various forms among which are frequent violence. A maltreated child is every child who undergoes physical, moral, psychological or affective violence be it in an active or passive way and which eventually deprecate on the health of the concerned irrespective of the author (family, institution, others) Here, we distinguish among others physical maltreatment, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, rejection, abandon and negligence etc. Poverty stands at 11% and relates to the economic situation of a given household. A good number of street children undertake economic activities whereby they serve as a vital source of income to their families. Theft comes at 8%. Stealing that gradually began in the house spun-out soon like wild fire due to lack of child discipline by guidance. Breaking into financial institutions, theft of motor bikes “pick pockets¹⁰”. for example, one nicknamed “Le Tamiseur” or “the Sieveter” made to understand that he was fun of “sieving¹¹” all the purses and hand bags of the house before finally taking off to the street by refusing sanctions and corrections from the father. Driven away by parents, threats from step mother, parents’ divorce, non-payment of school fees and absenteeism from school occupy the fifth ranges at 4%. The school enrollment rate among these children is very low 15.5%, particularly for boys. Overall, are from single-parent or blended families or polygamous households, and full orphans, following family disintegration, the parents’ separation or divorce, the death of a parent, or remarriage. After the remarriage of a parent, children are frequently abused and forced to leave the house by the stepfather or mother. Approximately 40% of these children smoke cigarettes and 64.1% use marijuana. Street children are often victims of discrimination, stigmatization, and abuse, as well as psychological, emotional, sexual, and physical violence. This explains why retrieving them from the street is not a day’s job but takes gradual stages beginning with counseling and educative talks on the importance of living at home and the negative consequences of street life and more emphasis on the polies of the country.

4. THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF POLICIES ON STREET CHILDREN RETRIEVING PROCESS

4.1. Social Policies.

Table 2. The inadequacies of certain existing national laws.

	SA	A	D	SD	N	Total
F	21	20	30	35	14	120
%	17.5	16.7	25.0	29.2	11.7	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	SD = 1.27
FW	84	60	60	35	0	$\frac{239}{120} = 1.99$

Source field research July 2020

From the table above, we discover that about a third (34.2%) of the respondents agree, more than half (54.2%) disagree and 11.7% remain neutral to the fact that the inadequacies of certain existing National laws and texts aimed at protecting children against child abuse and maltreatment to an extend promote street children phenomenon and ills like juvenile delinquency. This distribution of opinion is confirmed by a mean opinion of 1.99 and a standard deviation of 1.27. Since the mean value of opinion (1.99) is less than the critical value of 2.0, it can be deduced that certain existing national laws and texts aimed at protecting children promote street children phenomenon somehow.

Table 3. The voluntary character of the policy of responsible parenthood.

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	13	12	50	35	10	120
%	10.8	10	41.7	29.2	8.3	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 1.86
FW	52	36	100	35	0	223

Source field research July 2019

¹⁰ Pick pockets; small thieves who steals small objects especially wallets, telephones, shoes etc.

¹¹ Sieving; the act of searching to steal from hand bags, wallets money, or some valuable items.

About seventh-tenth of the respondent strongly disagree (70.9%) that the voluntary character of the policy of responsible parenthood as practiced in Cameroon effectively manage street children phenomenon. A mean value of opinion of 1.86 shows that the respondents generally disagree. In Cameroon there is no text that regulates child bearing so despite the limited and poverty level of most families, it is possible to the poor families with a large family size of averagely 6-7 children. The end is the inability to cater for all the children, thus the street become a survival point for these children.

Table 4. The non-application of policies with rigor

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	87	20	10	2	1	120
%	72.5	16.7	8.3	1.7	0.8	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 3.58
FW	348	60	20	2	0	430

Source field research July 2019

The non-application of state policies with rigour by the state and the non-respect by parents of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by Cameroon in 1993 encouraged children to go into the streets. From the table above, 72.5% of respondents strongly agree and 16.7% agree, 8.37% disagree, 1.7% strongly disagree while 0.8% is undecided. A mean value opinion of 3.58 confirms that the respondent generally agrees to this hypothesis. The UNCRC clearly states the rights of the child in relation to their parents. Yet most parents due to the economic hardship fail in their responsibilities towards their children. Thus, at a given point in time the former can't make ends meet, they are forced to abandon their offspring to fend for themselves and the street offers this opportunity.

Table 5. Child Abuse

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	90	20	5	3	2	120
%	75	16.7	4.2	2.5	1.7	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 3.61
FW	360	60	10	3	0	433

Source field research July 2019

Certain social practices like child battery, child slavery and exploitation have constituted as factors pushing children to the street. A good majority (91.7%) agree, most of them strongly (75%) that such practices pushed children into the streets. This is evident by a mean opinion of 3.6 which shows that the respondents generally agree with the assertion above.

Table 6. The non-implementation of sanction

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	35	30	40	10	5	120
%	29.7	25	33.3	8.3	4.7	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 2.67
FW	140	90	80	10	0	320

Source field research July 2019

From the table above, the opinions of the respondents show that slightly more than half (54.2%) disagree and an insignificant 4.2% are neutral on the fact that the non-implementation of sanctions provided for by laws and other texts in force on adults and parents who abuse and neglect children, push them to abandon the family settings for the streets. A mean opinion value 2.67 shows a weak agreement.

Table 7. Matrimonial regimes

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	33	25	55	6	1	120
%	27.5	20.8	45.8	5	0.8	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 2.69
FW	132	75	110	6	0	323

The matrimonial regimes of parents of street children are a contributory factor to the street children phenomenon. From the responses shown on the table above, it can be seen that 48.3% of respondents generally agree while more than half (50.8) generally disagree and an insignificant 0.8% are undecided. A mean value opinion of 2.69 shows that the respondents disagree with the fact.

Table 8. Summarizing the ineffective social policies

Response Option	Weight (W)	F	Percentage	FW
SA	4	461	48.0	1844
A	3	167	17.4	501
D	2	193	20.1	386
SD	1	104	10.8	104
N	0	35	0.4	0
TOTAL	-	960	100	2835
				X=2.95

Source field research July 2019

In reaction to the table on RQ1, more than 65.4% of the respondents agree, with nearly half of them 48% agreeing strongly to the issues raised. This position is confirmed by a mean opinion value of 2.95 which indicates that the respondents agree that social policies ineffectively or inadequately manage the phenomenon of street children in Cameroon. However, a significant 30.9% of the respondents disagree with the issues raised while a negligible 0.4% is undecided. A mean opinion value of 2.95 confirms that the respondents generally agree.

4.2. EDUCATIONAL POLICES.

The absence of adequate policies or palliative measures to regulate or alleviate the phenomenon of school deprecation that operates between primary and secondary education in Cameroon, push children into the streets.

TABLE 9. The absence of adequate policies

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	85	15	12	3	5	120
%	70.8	12.5	10	2.5	4.7	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 3.43
FW	340	45	24	3	0	412

Source field research July 2019

From the table above, more than four-fifths (83.3%) of the respondents agree most of them strongly that the absence of adequate policies or palliative measures to regulate the phenomenon of school deprecation that operates between primary and secondary education in Cameroon, push children into the streets. A mean opinion value of 3.43 confirms that the respondents generally agree.

TABLE 10. The teaching approaches and methodologies

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	78	20	10	6	6	120
%	65	16.7	8.3	5	5	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 3.32
FW	312	60	20	6	0	398

Source field research July 2019

The teaching approaches and methodologies, coupled with the behaviour of certain teachers in the teaching process send children away from schools into the streets. A majority of the respondents (81.7%) express the opinion, most of them strongly (65%). A mean opinion value of 3.32 confirms that the respondents generally agree.

Table 11. School curriculum

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	79	30	6	3	2	120
%	65.83	25	5	2.5	1.67	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 3.51
FW	316	90	12	3	0	421

Source field research July 2019

Outdated, un-adapted and uninteresting curriculum that fails to meet the outcome of education; that is employment and the future autonomy of the learner, push children into the streets. More than 9 in every 10 (90.8%) of the respondents generally agree, most of them strongly (65.83%) A mean value opinion of 3.51 shows that the respondents agree with the above assertion.

Table 12. Poor schooling attendance

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	30	68	2	12	8	120
%	25	56.6	1.7	10	6.7	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 2.83
FW	120	204	4	12	0	340

Source field research July 2019

School failures, absenteeism at school of certain children, school truancy and large number of pupils in class are responsible for the presence of children in the streets. The table above reveals a strong tendency (81.7%) towards the opinion. This is indicated by a general percentage of 81.7 for those who generally agree.

Table 13: Delay of free elementary education policies.

	SA	A	D	SD	N	TOTAL
F	40	30	15	20	15	120
%	33.3	25	12.5	16.7	12.5	100
W	4	3	2	1	0	x = 2.50
FW	180	90	30	20	0	300

Source field research July 2019

Delay by the Cameroonian Government in the implementation of free education for all at primary level (till of recent), compromised the chances of children from peasant or poor families from having adequate primary education and as such pushed some of them into the streets. The table above reveals that generally 53.3% (SA + A) agree. 29.2% generally disagree, while a negligible but significant 12.5% are neutral. A mean opinion of 2.5 shows a weak agreement. Even though the government has implemented this free elementary education there is no follow up as to make sure it is really free. If actually implemented the high P.T.A. level fee due for construction, payment of staff the buying of school equip still make the education not free thereby having many drop outs from school with little or no educational intake.

TABLE 14. Summary table for the educational policies

Response Option	Weight (W)	F	Percentage	Fw
SA	4	312	52.0	1248
A	3	163	27.2	489
D	2	45	7.5	90
SD	1	44	7.3	44
N	0	36	6.0	0
TOTAL	-	600	100	1871
				X=3.12

Source field research July 2019

Nearly four-fifths that is 79.2% of all the respondents agree; most of them strongly, 52% with the issues raised in RQ2, while a small but significant 14.8% disagree and 6% are neutral. A mean opinion value of 3.12 confirms that the respondent generally agrees with the issues addressed by RQ2.

CONCLUSION

This research on Street Children focuses on the consequences of ineffective social and educational policies management in Cameroon. There has hardly been much attention to the social reality of these phenomenon. In this article I have chronicled what is the meaning of street children and the categories of street children. I also saw the socio economic characteristics of the street children and their vulnerability. The factors responsible for the departure of children to the streets. The findings shows that it is vital to look at the everyday social realities of these children in the street. It was also realised from respondents' response that much effort and the reinforcement of the policies should be put in place with rigor to help combat this phenomenon in Douala and the country as a whole.

REFERENCES

1. Alphonse TAY., (1995). In "Street children: fatality or responsibility?", UNESCO.
2. An Inquiry on the number of street children living in Cameroon, (1992-1993), UNICEF, UNESCO, MINASCOF, Yaoundé, Cameroon.
3. Balaam Yves., (1997), Street and Prison Children in an African Town: Presse de L'UCAC, 189P
4. Barker and Knarl., (1991), In the Street with Children, a Program for the Reinsertion of Street Children; Paris, Karthala
5. Becker, H.S., (1963), Outsiders: Studies in the sociology of deviance. (The free press 1973)



6. Bernard Pirot ., (2004), "Enfants des rues d'Afrique Centrale et Kinshasa" Edition Karthala 2004 (P 24)
7. Berger. P. and Luckman.T., (1966), *The Social Construction of reality*, Doubleday, New York
8. Ela Jean Marc., (2006), *La Ville en Afrique noire*, Karthala, Paris
9. Ellerman David., (2006), *Helping people help themselves; The University of Michigan Press. Ann Arbor 2*
10. ENDA., (1995). *Collective, Children in Search and in Action, Dakar*
11. Goffman Erving., (1973), *la mise en scène de la vie quotidienne, 2vl.trad.Fr Paris, Minuit*
12. Hirschi Travis., (1969), *The causes of delinquency, University of California Press*
13. Hodges Carolines Persell., (1984), *Understanding Society. An Introduction to Sociology, Harper and Row, New York*
14. International Labour Organisation., (2004), *Children at Work: a Manual for Use by Students, ILO*
15. Lute G.,(1997), *Les enfants de la rue au Guatemala, l'Harmattan, Paris*
16. LDA Alves., (1990), *In Street Children in the Brazilian Town of Guoinia*
17. Marguerat Yves and Daniele Poitou., (2004), *Listening to children living in the streets in Black Africa, the River Children, Fayard Paris*
18. Mengue Marie-Thérèse., (2003), "Street Children in Cameroon: from Surprise to Action", *A Research Report, Yaoundé, UNICEF, Cameroon*
19. MINAS., (1993), "An Inquiry on the number of street children living in Cameroon", *Yaoundé, Cameroon*
20. Mengue Marie-Thérèse., (2003), "Street Children in Cameroon: from Surprise to Action", *A Research Report, Yaoundé, UNICEF, Cameroon*
21. Mengue Marie- Thérèse., (1997), "The youths in the streets of Yaoundé, Cameroon: a write up to the problematic, Thesis in Doctorate Degree, ICP