The Significance of Listening to Minority Groups, Particularly Street Children

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Abstract:

The perspectives of marginalized communities have been disregarded over an extended period of time. Who are they? What are the reasons and methods for actively engaging in listening to them? It is crucial to attentively and considerately heed the perspectives of all individuals, particularly those who are part of marginalized communities. This article provides a concise and analytical overview of recently published material on street children. It does not include fresh fieldwork. Published research clearly indicates a lack of knowledge that focuses on minority groups, particularly street children. It is essential that all individuals, especially experts and policy makers, give significant importance to and take into account the perspectives of these youngsters, particularly when creating policies that relate to their overall progress and advancement. Active listening is essential in order to comprehend the experiences and diverse viewpoints of these youngsters. Despite the challenges and high expectations, it is highly recommended that professionals, policymakers, and all individuals pay close attention to the perspectives of these children in order to facilitate significant and effective transformation. Actively listening enables a proper understanding of the needs, emotions, objectives, ideals, and aspirations of marginalized communities. Listening also enables individuals to get a more comprehensive and lucid comprehension of the perspectives of street children on many matters, particularly in the realms of social, moral, ethical, and educational domains, and how these factors impact them. Above all, listening may help in developing suggestions and then implementing various programs. By actively engaging in listening, governmental and non-governmental institutions may get a more comprehensive understanding of the needs and perspectives of the people they want to serve. This can help prevent the establishment of programs that do not adequately consider the input of the intended beneficiaries. By engaging in active listening and careful analysis, social architects can effectively develop programs that address the various needs of children, thereby improving their overall quality of life in areas such as social interaction, intellectual growth, religious development, and education.

Keywords: *Particularly Street Children: Empowerment, Inclusion, Advocacy*

1. Introduction

There has been an increasing emergence of minority groups and street children over the past decades. Although very little is still known about them, they are often negatively depicted and are subsequently treated with apathy, indifference, and disdain. With the support of literature, this paper revealed some of the characteristics of street children. It presented possible definitions and showed the complexity in attempting to listen to them. The fundamental belief is that more knowledge about the lifestyle of minority groups and street children may lead to heightened sensitivity towards their needs. Attending to the perspectives of minority groups is complex and convoluted. In order to effectively engage with minority groups, it is essential to demonstrate a genuine willingness to provide sufficient time and attention. This entails closely and attentively listening to their expressions and perspectives. Listening is essential since it plays a crucial role in understanding the life of minority populations, particularly street children. Minority groups and street children may exhibit a heightened willingness to

express their ideas, emotions, sentiments, and goals when they perceive a genuine interest from others in their life.

Listening is an active and ever-changing activity. It is characterized by ongoing growth and progression. It necessitates a distinct exertion and expertise due to its intricate and intricate nature. However, when executed proficiently, it has the ability to establish, revive, and sustain tangible connections while removing obstacles. An analysis of the professional literature revealed a scarcity of information on this subject. This study included a systematic examination of many research papers, journal articles, and books without relying on direct observation or experimentation. A rigorous research methodology examined current scholarly articles pertaining to this important subject matter. This report emphasized the need of actively listening to the perspectives of street children and avoided the use of exaggerated or sensationalized language.

2. Definition of minority groups

In various contexts, the term "minority groups" is used with varied connotations. However, they asserted that minority groups might be categorized based on demographic proportions and specific attributes or behaviors, like ethnicity, color, religion, sexual orientation, or handicap. According to Wikipedia authors (2022), these groups often encounter prejudice in many aspects of life, including social, political, intellectual, religious, and educational spheres. According to the editors of Britannica (2019), minority groups are described as culturally, ethnically, or racially diverse groups that live in a subservient position within each community. Although the dominant group determines which groups are classified as minorities, the specific criteria employed for this determination remains unclear. According to the editors of Britannica (2019), minority groups are typically socially, politically, and intellectually isolated and divided from the larger community.

The level of representation for minority groups varies depending on the specific civilization. Children belonging to minority groups continue to endure various forms of suffering throughout all aspects of society. Chatham and Mixer (2021) acknowledged that although qualitative research has used children as participants for many years, there is still a need for more action since ethnic minority children have not been well represented. In order to have a deeper understanding of children's perspectives, Chatham and Mixer (2021) conducted an analysis of the historical development of research with children. The researchers determined that trust is a crucial element in obtaining permission to interact with minority youngsters. Furthermore, they emphasized the crucial importance of children's voices. These voices may enhance others' understanding of the experiences of youngsters.

Minority groups' perspectives may provide policy makers with insights into the challenges faced by these youngsters. Zhou and Bankston (2020) postulated that minority children often exhibit a deficiency in fundamental life prerequisites. A significant portion of them possess less formal education and are subject to societal stereotypes. Hamilton et al. (2020) argued that due to the low participation of minority children in physical exercise, they are susceptible to many illnesses. This behavior is often perpetuated until maturity. Hamilton et al. (2020) emphasized that neglecting this problem might lead to significant adverse consequences. It may lead to the development of chronic disorders affecting the liver, renal cells, breasts, endometrial tissue, and colon, and may also contribute to early mortality. White et al. (2021) suggested that insufficient nutrition may also lead to the development of illnesses in youngsters. According to White et al. (2021), children belonging to minority groups often encounter poverty, which significantly hampers their opportunities. They have a lower socioeconomic position, live in overcrowded households, and are susceptible to sickness. This situation becomes much more complex when some ethnic youngsters are labeled as street children.

3. Definition of street children

Defining street children with precision is a difficult task. This method is intricate, intricate, and controversial. The United Nations (2017) said that street children are not a homogeneous population.

Their variety encompasses several factors such as age, gender, race, and nationality. This indicates varying experiences, hazards, and requirements. In their study, Yin Cheryl Ng et al. (2022) elucidated that a portion of the youngsters reside on the streets and have little or no communication with their parents or other important individuals. Some individuals engage in street jobs while others periodically return to their residences. It is hardly unexpected that countries throughout the globe have varying perspectives about them. The literature assessment characterized them as a perplexing and unremarkable phenomenon. The Consortium for Street Children (2021) posited that they are inconspicuous in society and are not accorded dignity and respect by several religious institutions, government officials, and legislators. According to Setyowati et al. (2021), some people see them as worthless since they wander the streets and disturb the neighborhood with their noisy and rowdy conduct. Setyowati et al. (2021) assert that these youngsters experience marginalization and social exclusion.

Consequently, they are constantly confronted with various forms of exclusion, prejudice, and exploitation in the realms of society, politics, intellect, and religion. Reza and According to Henly (2018), living on the streets is characterized by extreme suffering and unhappiness, with these youngsters being subjected to constant exposure to dirt, illness, violence, and poverty. According to Asante (2019), there are just a few choices available to youngsters living on the streets, and they face significant challenges and hardships in order to survive. Furthermore, Bajari and Kuswarno (2020) said that street children are stigmatized as social outsiders due to their association with disorder, turmoil, and heinous criminal activities. On the streets, individuals are prone to and at risk from the surrounding environment. Irawati et al. (2021) concluded that street children rely on limited assistance from their family and important individuals in their lives. They operate in urban areas, namely in locations like as streets, beneath bridges, parking lots, and unoccupied ground. Bwambale et al. (2021) classified them as those who physically reside on the streets. Sah (2019) said that they face persistent vulnerability due to their lack of protection and defense, making them susceptible to exploitation and abuse. Furthermore, they are dispossessed and stripped of their fundamental rights and dignity, and are shunned and ostracized by society. Sah (2019) said that these youngsters require adequate supervision and direction due to their exclusive objective and ambition of surviving on the streets. Due to their little knowledge and lack of foresight, their prospects for the future are bleak and unhappy. Ismael (2019) provided several justifications for the occurrence of youngsters on the streets. Several of them experienced the demise of their parents or significant others and the breakdown of their family. Additional factors were severe poverty, illegal drug usage among households, and high levels of domestic violence. He further said that some people really compel their children to beg on the streets. Societal et al. (2021) also concurred that excessive poverty and absence of parental direction foster children's inclination to reside on the streets. The Consortium for Street Children (2019) highlighted that although some individuals may use the phrases "street children" and "homeless children" interchangeably, these concepts are not identical. Not all street children are homeless, indicating that there are specific distinctions between them.

The Consortium for Street Children (2019) said that some street children get shelter and lodging in drop-in centers and halfway homes. Therefore, it is important to note that children depicted as street children may not necessarily be without a family. They work diligently, engage in leisure activities, and spend time outside, but ultimately, they do come back to their family. The literature assessment portrayed street children in an entirely unfavorable and unpleasant way. According to Prasad's (2021) study, over 33% of street children said that they choose to live on the streets because they lacked the love and care of their family. Consequently, they were disenchanted and skeptical of new friends. The attempts made by non-governmental entities to rehabilitate them seemed to be quite challenging. Due to their significant lack of confidence in others, Prasad (2021) also noted that these youngsters may avoid addressing problems until they disclose the whole truth. This behavior often exacerbates their capacity to accomplish their goals. Their objectives and aspirations.

Dutta (2018) argued that living on the streets presents an ongoing struggle for existence. Dutta (2018) argues that it is contradictory for individuals residing in a big metropolis to be deprived of the luxuries and conveniences often associated with urban living.

According to Pratap and Singh (2021), street children have a recurring presence in several regions of the developing globe. youngsters further proposed that because to inadequate protection and supervision from adults, youngsters often find themselves on the streets. According to Pratap and Singh (2021), street children roam the streets in quest of sustenance, hydration, garments, and refuge. They are engaged in an incessant struggle for existence. Furthermore, apart from neglect and exploitation, kids are also susceptible to gang violence and numerous forms of abuse. They are vulnerable targets for drug dealers and sex traffickers, and a significant number of them are coerced into engaging in prostitution (Parveen, 2019).

4. Listening to street children

Julien (2021) posited that the act of listening to street children encompasses the qualities of artistry, expertise, self-control, and a fundamental approach to existence. He highlighted that listening entails more than just providing advise and guidance. It does not imply the act of critiquing emotions. Listening does not attempt to resolve issues and difficulties. Argued that acquiring and honing this talent is necessary for some individuals. When executed with precision, attentive listening has the ability to establish and sustain favorable interpersonal connections. Koščak et al. (2021) said that it is essential to heed the perspectives of children, despite the fact that the intricacies of communicating with them need more investigation and examination. Liu et al. (2022) argued that it is crucial to engage in clear and efficient communication and collaboration with street children.

This means that the method of communication and cooperation should be clear and open, and it should actively include the children to the greatest extent feasible. Fyhn and Berntsen (2022) highlighted the importance of engaging in active listening while interacting with youngsters. It was said that some individuals may need instruction in the skills of active listening and impartiality. According to Julien (2021), listening may familiarize adults with language features like similes, metaphors, and idioms. This exposure helps adults comprehend the meaning behind certain jargon often employed by youngsters. He concluded that while listening is demanding and arduous, it is also rewarding. It is very important to pay close attention to the way youngsters speak and behave when they are asked certain questions. In their 2022 study, Yin Cheryl Ng et al. particularly emphasized the need of establishing secure environments where street children may freely express themselves without any constraints. Additionally, they deduced that adults must acquire the skill of attentive and deliberate listening. According to Julien (2021), listening entails demonstrating concern, contemplating, and refraining from making negative judgments. Additionally, it entails giving children the ability to express themselves. He further said that listening is an essential instrument in attempting to fully understand the perspectives and Street children's viewpoints. Therefore, more emphasis should be placed on this field. Listening is often underrated, underestimated, and oversimplified. In our modern world, several grownups are consumed with their occupations and personal endeavors.

Occasionally, they are required to labor for periods, which may impede and hinder their ability and eagerness to listen. Fyhn and Berntsen (2022) acknowledged that both respect and listening are complex matters. However, they firmly believed that when adults attentively listen, a nurturing environment that prioritizes the needs of children is established. In order to actively participate in this process, Skovsmose (2020) strongly recommended that adults should carefully consider the interests, expectations, hopes, goals, and reasons of children. By adopting this approach, the practice of hearing becomes dynamic and engaging. It stimulates and inspires youngsters, prompting them to talk willingly and sincerely. Mithani et al. (2021) stressed the need of creating a conducive and comfortable setting for minority children to express and narrate their experiences.

According to Brookes (2018), one effective method for listening to children is to actively promote and engage in discussion with them. She proposed that there is inherent worth in encouraging children to articulate their desires, requirements, and strategies for attaining them. This simple but crucial method instills in youngsters a clear feeling of purpose and belonging, resulting in their fearlessness when it comes to participating in the discourse. According to Brookes (2018), children who actively engage in conversation demonstrate both personal growth and development as they freely express themselves. Walker and Misca (2019) strongly argued for the inclusion of children's voices in the decision-making process. When this is achieved in a suitable way, the ultimate outcome is undoubtedly a substantial change. It gives youngsters the ability to take control of their own lives and helps them develop skills to interact effectively with others. They finally acknowledge the inherent connections between acts, choices, and their repercussions. They cultivate a more profound understanding of responsibility and obligation, therefore assuming control over their own life. Although complex, it is not unattainable, hence it is appropriate to provide street children with the chance to express their narratives (Kaneva and Corcoran 2021).

Thus, the act of listening to street children entails establishing trust and fostering a harmonious atmosphere (Ferguson, 2017). Church (2019) posited that different groups have the ability to advocate with the government in order to maintain the rights of children. According to DeVito (2006), there are five distinct steps involved in the process of listening: receiving, comprehending, remembering, assessing, and reacting. Delpit (1993) recognized that listening is a skill that requires empathy and a genuine effort to understand the information being communicated by others. Attending to the voices of young people is a complex and delicate task that requires careful scrutiny of their words. According to Julien (2021), listening is an integral aspect of attempting to envisage. Street children's lives are impacted because they are more inclined to express their ideas and emotions to someone who are ready to listen and possess the ability to be patient. Julien (2021) also suggested that it is crucial to carefully attend to the tone of street children and closely examine their behaviors. Frequently, these feelings and behaviors become beneficial in devising a method to elucidate the viewpoints of youngsters. According to Adler and Rodman (2010) and Gerrig and Zimbard (2008), it is crucial to listen with a positive attitude since youngsters have a natural ability to develop analytical and constructive insights. By doing so, people might unintentionally respond appropriately to the responsibility of recognizing any problems that can hinder their integration into the broader social society. Delpit (1993) highlighted that although it is essential to listen to children in order to understand their perspectives, it requires a unique ability and art. In addition, Delpit (1993) emphasized that effective hearing requires the active engagement of all the senses.

Listening with both empathy and intellectual engagement entails being fully engaged and dedicated to the interaction. Being astute and diplomatic is crucial since adults often discern things not just through their senses, but also via their convictions. According to Delpit (1993), actively listening to children requires adults to temporarily set aside their own opinions. DeVito (2006) also hypothesized that people who listen with a receptive mindset and empathetic attitude have improved trust and evaluation of the communication. Engaging in active listening, when both the emotions and intellect are involved, has more significance than just being attentive and discreet, while temporarily setting aside personal opinions. It involves more than just being proficient in the language spoken by youngsters. It signifies displaying honesty and authenticity. It denotes the act of fully encompassing the experiences and existence of children, and seeing the world from their point of view. Fine and Glassner (1979) also noted that actively listening to children entails more than just having sympathetic and empathetic skills. Bovee (2008) said that adults may use listening as a means to seek clarification, introspect on their own emotions, and even investigate further. However, they must consistently strive to effectively distinguish between subjective viewpoints and objective facts. According to DeVito (2006), having empathy while listening improves a connection. He suggested that adults attempt to empathize with children, so motivating them to express their feelings. As previously said, adults may enhance their exposure to certain language use, such as similes, metaphors, and idioms, by listening. This can also help them

comprehend the jargon that youngsters employ. Despite adults believing they are capable of understanding and using children's slang, Fine and Glassner (1979) warned that there may be obstacles. Children's slang can be challenging for adults to comprehend, and even when they do, it often sounds strange and unnatural to children when spoken by an adult. They also held the belief that professional listening should only occur at the appropriate moment, since any contrived or fake effort may have severe consequences. Bovee (2008) and Adler and Rodman (year not specified)(2010) provided some recommendations that might enhance the ease of listening. Ensure meticulous note-taking, maintain regular eye contact, respond with suitable facial expressions, convey nonverbal signals, and most importantly, remain fully attentive to the discourse. If feasible, endeavor to mentally rephrase the significant matters and save any inquiries or areas of dispute for the suitable occasion. Above all, prioritize the listening connection as a chance to acquire knowledge.

Julien (2021) firmly believes that listening is an essential strategy for comprehending the perspectives of street children. This field deserves more attention and should not be ignored, discounted, or oversimplified. According to Julien (2021), youngsters who talk with a tremor in their voice indicate feelings of anxiousness or worry. Adults should be aware and empathize with the immense challenge and intense emotional distress that some youngsters face when trying to articulate anything of a very sensitive nature. Active listening may enhance the recognition of children and prompt adults to understand that youngsters are often enthusiastic about sharing their experiences. They will only do so if grownups exhibit real interest in them. Hence, it is crucial to fully grasp the perspectives of street children and not underestimate their importance. Certainly, there will be occasions when individuals may struggle to articulate the details of an event due to a limited vocabulary. Certain street children may experience feelings of shame and embarrassment while discussing sensitive topics. However, it is essential for adults to trust the accounts of street children until there is evidence to the contrary.

5. Advocacy
Advocacy, in essence, refers to the act of expressing and taking action on one's own behalf. It also entails determining the optimal course of action and actively striving towards that specific objective. Advocacy is more than simply having the opportunity to express oneself effectively and have interpersonal abilities. Nevertheless, a significant number of individuals refuse to acknowledge minority groups and fail to see the significance of self-advocacy. Conversely, activists from minority groups consistently face a struggle for autonomy and acknowledgment. Many minority groups believe that street children should advocate for themselves.

The individuals who are experiencing something are the most qualified to provide an accurate explanation of their experiences. Ultimately, individuals have the autonomy to choose choices that they consider suitable and articulate their own personal experiences up to this point in life, taking into account the prevailing conditions. Advocacy may also include questioning the prevailing mindset. This may include restructuring political ideologies. Empowering children involves completely transforming the way they are heard and valued. The societal perceptions and visual representations of street children. It refers to liberating children from the traditional and authoritarian mindset that certain individuals in the majority of society may have towards these youngsters. Julien (2022) strongly supports and asserts the practice of self-advocacy and holds the belief that street children possess significant ability to advocate for themselves. A significant number of street children see mainstream society as harsh and scary, leading to a lack of trust towards them.

Therefore, it is imperative to provide street children the opportunity to express their opinions and be heard. Possessing a voice is the only means by which they would attain liberation. The denial of this voice increases the likelihood of internalizing their disillusionment. They have a tendency to isolate themselves from social interactions, harboring feelings of resentment and displaying violent behavior. Some individuals possess this disillusionment, which leads to anguish, apprehension, bewilderment, diminished self-worth, and diminished aspirations, all of which exacerbate their everyday activities. The

United Nations (2017) document on the Convention to the Rights of the Child provides explicit policy and legal recommendations for nations to safeguard street children. According to this paper, it is stated that these youngsters possess the entitlement to freely associate and communicate in public areas without being subjected to harassment by law enforcement officers. Thomas De Benitez (2017) endorsed the concept proposed by the United Nations (2017) and said that it might serve as an effective means of promoting the rights of street children. According to SCU (2020), it is important to note that advocacy programs aimed at helping street children, such as the implementation of sports initiatives, need the collective cooperation of all those involved. SCU (2020) states that when street children participate in sports, they develop self-awareness and the public becomes more attuned to their way of existence, leading to more tolerance and acceptance. Sports may help reduce the divide between street children and the general population, fostering an atmosphere of acceptance and harmony between society and street children (Meir and Fletcher, 2019, 2020; Richardson and Fletcher, 2020). Advocacy provides these adolescents with the chance to emphasize their experiences of living on the streets (Kaneva and Corcoran, 2021). Additionally, it offers youngsters the chance to engage in amicable interactions, cultivate novel abilities, and get informal education (Njoroge, 2017). Furthermore, this level of exposure provides street children with a significant feeling of pride and contentment, so enhancing their delicate self-esteem and empowering them. Additionally, it enhances their self-esteem and confers authority onto them (Black et al., 2020, 2021; Dowse and Fletcher, 2018; Malcolm and Fletcher, 2017). Engaging homeless children in sports highlights their skill, and this recognition may sometimes be disseminated to the public via the media and other social platforms (Corcoran et al., 2020).

Dowse et al. (2018) indicated that there is a lack of literature about sports and its influence on street children. They also held the belief that this lack of knowledge strongly indicates that the perspectives of street children are not adequately taken into account. In order for lobbying to have a significant impact, society must undergo substantial changes. Empowering street children involves more than just allowing them to express themselves and provide their own opinions and ideas. This is a comprehensive shift that compels society to recognize and cherish the ideas and contributions they provide to the larger community. It should be emphasized that achieving advocacy for street children is a challenging task. Street children often lack awareness of the individuals responsible for creating regulations that affect their presence on the streets. Consequently, it is imperative to notify policy makers. It is imperative that they heed the cries of street children. They must possess knowledge of their own interests. If their opinions are not listened to, their whole life may be utterly ignored, and their interests will not be adequately included. Advocacy for street children should aim to cultivate a consciousness of their living conditions. Mere expression of interest in street children is inadequate. Individuals are unable to relate to them when they are unwilling to tackle the problems and structures that lead to their existence on the streets. Commitment without direct confrontation tends to swiftly diminish into unproductive emotional sympathy. Commitment requires a persistent and conscientious effort. This presents a level of complexity that is unique to itself. It encompasses political activism and rigorous examination that confronts the misguided, uninformed, and biased remarks and notions that often exist in society about these children.

6. Materials and methods
6.1 Research methodology
This non-empirical research gathered relevant data through critical studies, systematic review and meta-analysis. Secondary sources were taken from central library books, journals, and the internet. A careful and thorough investigation of appropriate and relevant research techniques such as text criticism, critical examination of biographical studies, narrative analysis, creative writing as a research method, and internet-based research assisted this methodology. Pertinent and apt reading material were also gathered and thoughtfully analysed and evaluated academically and the importance of the findings informed this study.

6.2 Results and discussion

A review of the professional literature indicates that few people pay great emphasis . This becomes even more convoluted when people try to listen to minority groups and street children. Thus, this research is crucial because it offers scholars and researchers pertinent information and knowledge on how to actively listen to minority groups. The analysis of existing literature contributes to current knowledge and serves as catalysis to motive, energize and inspire others to engage in the process of listening to minority groups. Because it enriches and enhances the research and academic scenario it can lead those who are interested in minority groups in the right direction. Moreover, it can encourage and stimulate policy makers, non-governmental organization and all those who are interested in minority groups to be unafraid to render assistance.

7. Conclusion

This paper aims to inspire the public to recognize that minority groups, as well as all children, have the potential to be a catalyst for the advancement of a more improved society, nation, and world. This study, which did not rely on direct observation or experimentation, examined the intricacy involved in formulating an exact description of minority groups and street children. The study thoroughly analyzed the importance of attentive listening, particularly focusing on the perspectives of street children and advocacy efforts.

It is important to acknowledge that listening encompasses more than just perceiving sound and paying attention. It goes beyond just having empathy and showing compassion. It goes beyond just declaring a wish to be devoted. It refers to actively and fully engaging in the lives of children who are socially displaced. Once again, this task is challenging. It is arduous, difficult, and requires a significant amount of time. Furthermore, the report emphasized that advocating is a crucial aspect of listening. Frequently, programs are designed for street children without seeking their input or involvement. Hence, it is imperative for government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders concerned with the welfare of street children to engage in a substantive discussion with them. It is very important to listen to their views, concerns, and viewpoints in order to choose a meaningful path ahead. It is important to acknowledge that street children, due to their ability to endure the challenges of living on the streets, may be seen as authorities on street life. Nevertheless, it is important for street children to ensure that their opinions are expressed. They must also engage in advocacy in order to assert their rights. This article aims to inspire the public to see that minority groups, as well as all children, have the potential to be a catalyst for the advancement of society, country, and the globe as a whole.

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