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Educating the Dropouts; the Case of Street Children in Maputo City, Mozambique

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ABSTRACT

Almost every country in the world is committed to offer primary education for every child in 2015 at the latest yet many children have been left out of school. Mozambique is one of the countries which is still struggling to get all children through a full course of primary education. The street children are part of this phenomenon. Many of them have once been enrolled to primary school but at some point they have dropped out and are now surviving on the street without basic education. In this study the focus is in the question of how to create the possibility of basic education for a dropout living on the street.

The data collection took place in Maputo City, Mozambique during the spring 2008. The material was collected with ethnographic methods from 12 children who have dropped out of primary education and are now living on the street. These children were between 13 and 17 years of age and all of them were boys. When collecting the data observation and semi-structured interviews were used as well as photographs and drawings to supplement the research material. This material was collected in a close interaction with the children while working with them.

The research follows the ideas of Paulo Freire and it concentrates on analysing the reality of a street child, their vision of a better future and finding means to achieve that better future. All of the researched children said that the mean to achieve their dream is to get education. This created the vision of a better future which is education for all. The means to achieve this were created together with the children.

In order to attend school the street children would require a private place to do their homework, wash their clothes and deposit their personal belongings. The children also need school materials and clothes as well as shoes for going to school. Some of the regulations of schooling need to be modified, like the possibility to influence on school shifts and the physical place of school. Also huge modifications should be made in the public. The attitudes towards the street children should be changed so that they could sleep in peace, their rights would not be neglected and they would not have to face so much hostility rather they would encounter support, help and kindness.

Asiasanat:street children, primary education, dropout, the reality of street children, education for all, Mozambique

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Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, has a vital registration system with a high coverage, and demographic surveys show that both infant and adult mortality rates are high, with an estimated infant mortality rate (IMR) in 1993 of 70 deaths per 1000 live births (6). A Demographic and Health Survey in 1997 estimated that the annual. 546 # World Health Organization 2001. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 2001, 79 (6). Maputo City is in southern Mozambique and close to the South African border. Even if all 234 cases of ill-defined violence were redistributed proportionately among the known causes, as proposed by the GBD study, the number of registered deaths from violence would still be less than that in the medicolegal autopsy records. Most of the children who do not access school and drop out early are girls. Only in Maputo city - the capital - there is a balance between girls and boys entering primary school. At the upper levels of the education system, however, girls disappear. Although Mozambique has great cultural and linguistic diversity, Portuguese is still the only language of instruction. Many street children in Latin America, who either live or work in the streets of developing countries, are impoverished. Although most are still in contact with their families, almost all street children spend a significant portion of their days working on the streets for money. As the population of street children in Latin America has grown, public opinion of street children has decreased, putting them at risk for victimization and abuse by strangers and public officials. Many non-government Tinea capitis among children at one suburban primary school in the City of Maputo, Mozambique. July 2007 · Revista da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Tropical. Mohsin Sidat. This cross-sectional study was carried out to determine the prevalence and risk factor of tinea capitis among school children in Nok community of Kaduna State, Nigeria. A total of 100 children were screened and 45% were diagnosed to have tinea capitis after fungal [Show full abstract] culture and microscopy.