

## Street-connected Children Counselling and Guiding Them: A Critical Literature Review

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### ABSTRACT

Globally, the issue of street-connected children continues to be a growing phenomenon. This scenario is very convoluted to comprehend since there are various factors that contribute to their presence on the streets. To try to understand their lives and bring hope to them via counselling, this critical review systematically searched various journals and articles for references pertaining to the topic. This non-empirical research is advantageous because it can provide theoretical insights, develop new concepts, and synthesize existing knowledge through literature reviews. Mention must be made of its limitations. It lacks empirical evidence which makes the findings potentially subjective, leading to conclusions that can be less reliable and harder to verify through experimentation or direct observation. Nonetheless, the findings identified that street-connected are habitually viewed as victims of poverty, abuse, violence, and discrimination. The findings also revealed that although their lives are constantly rooted in danger it is not impossible to rehabilitate and provide them with counselling and guidance. Moreover, these children have the innate capacity to navigate complex situations, adapt to street life, and build supportive networks. These diverse perspectives shape how society perceives and responds to street-connected children and influence the types of support and interventions provided. Thus, this analysis raises an awareness about their plight and calls supporting organizations to continue to advocate for their rights. While these various organizations provide street-connected children with basic amenities like food, clothing, and shelter, they should also concentrate on long-term solutions such as counselling and guidance and integration.

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### Introduction

Street-connected children are repeatedly portrayed in an unfavorable and unsatisfactory manner and are regularly characterized as destitute, impoverished, and disadvantaged (Fantahun & Taa, 2022). Life on the streets is dispiriting, discouraging, and unrewarding. There is no future. There is no hope. There is no escape. On the streets they are continually discriminated against (Al-Hroub et al., (2021). Very few seem to care about their wellbeing and even the assistance that is provided is often inadequate. It is against this background that this critical literature review was written. Mention

must be made that this paper does not cast aspersion but tries to present these children in the positive. To achieve this objective, it strongly asserts the importance of providing counselling and guidance with a firm view of integrating them into their community. This author argues that too often programs only emphasize the basic needs and grossly overlook the psychological ones. This author argues that there must be a good balance, and assistance ought to incorporate the psychological, social and cognitive components. While these interventions are necessary and should be continued, street-connected children need psychological intervention. In this regard, this research lays strong emphasis on the significance of guidance and counselling. The latter is very essential since these children need proper direction to make growth-promoting choices. This paper also recognizes the role of inclusion and believes that it is imperative in rehabilitating these children. Findings reveal that integration is possible through the process of counselling and guidance. The findings also indicate that the communities must assume more responsibility to facilitate this process. Thus, the principal objective of this critical literature review is to provide adequate insights about the lives of street-connected children and demonstrate how they could be assisted through counselling and guidance. The research question guided this paper: How can counselling and guidance help rehabilitate street-connected children?

### **Literature Review**

According to de Klerk and Pretorius (2019), research involving a critical literature review is purposeful and can certainly direct academic discourse and influence decision be making. It is also pertinent because it reveals data about a subject area and accentuates its significance and relevance in research. Moreover, it identifies strengths, limitations, and gaps about a given subject and serves as catalysts for future research (de Klerk & Pretorius, 2019). According Garrod (2023), a critical literature review is substantial and meaningful since it represents a thorough appraisal of contemporary knowledge. In addition, Xiao and Watson (2019) affirmed that a sound critical literature review must incorporate analytical thinking. Pivetti and Dusi (2025) and Bearman et al. (2023) opined that an effective critical literature review presents an overall evaluation under analysis. This is extremely significant since it ensures that conclusions are based on the available evidence and consistent. It also carefully identifies and clarifies the assumptions upon which these conclusions are formulated (Taquette & Borges da Matta Souza, 2022; Albia & Cheng, 2023). This critical literature review explored the contemporary body of knowledge relevant to the topic. It identified gaps, synthesized findings and provided context and groundwork for further research. Through the analysis of previous studies, it answered the research question: How can counselling and guidance help rehabilitate street-connected children?

While a critical literature review is pertinent and worthwhile, it faces several criticisms. There is great potential for bias in the selection of sources, and it is also difficult to always maintain objectivity. These issues sometimes challenge the way synthesis is achieved. Furthermore, some reviews are ambiguous regarding what constitutes a critical approach. This can lead to reviews that are merely descriptive rather than analytical. Other grave challenges include managing a large volume of

sources, keeping the review current, and identifying relevant gaps in the existing research. By addressing these challenges through systematic search strategies, rigorous evaluation of sources, and a commitment to transparency and clarity, this researcher tried to produce a robust and worthwhile critical literature review. The following section presents an overview of street-connected children, value in counselling them and the theoretical framework.

### ***Street-connected Children: Their Lives and Unique Situations***

Fikre (2024) and Urgessa Gita and Abeshu Dissasa (2023) forcibly claimed that street-connected children are habitually described in various negative ways. Some of these include unsatisfactory names such as children of the street, children on the street, street children, homeless children, runaway children, gamines, urchins and abandoned children. Embleton et al. (2020) believed that these terms have been used because these children are not directly connected with their families, and they dominate the streets and public spaces. However, Embleton et al. (2020) and Stevenson et al. (2022) opined that within recent years, the term street-connected children is used and it is more acceptable. This is because the latter name avoids the negative connotations associated with former labels and strongly emphasizes the role of the street in shaping their lives, and it identifies their social relationship. Embleton et al. (2020) also believed that while terminologies such as street-connected and children and youth in street situations may reduce stigmatization and negative implications these children still experience severe exploitation, tremendous violence, enormous sexual abuse, many mental health issues, chronic substance abuse, unfavorable reproductive health disorders, and undesirable sexually transmitted diseases. In the light of the foregone regarding how these children should be called, this researcher refers to them as street-connected children. The latter was specifically selected because that term acknowledges the diverse experiences and varying degrees of connection these children have with the streets. It is important to note that over the years street-connected children have become a source of grave concern. As a result, it has attracted attention from many scholars, policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders (Embleton et al., 2020; Fantahun & Taa, 2022; Fikre, 2024; Sharma, 2020).

Although there are several reasons for their presence on the streets, Fantahun and Taa (2022) Cardenal (2021) and Cavazzoni et al. (2023) opined that poverty is the pivotal. Lashari et al. (2023) and Pudjiastuti et al. (2025) supported that reason and further indicated that serious persistent economic deprivation, perpetual domestic violence, and dysfunctional family are other explanations that contribute to their homelessness. Das et al. (2024) and Hartmann et al. (2021) further revealed that chronic drug abuse, grave financial constraints, severe physiological problems are also major contributing factors. Thapa and Pandey (2023), and Jasman and Prasetya (2023) also believed that street-connected children are constantly ostracized, socially excluded and are susceptible to all sorts of communicable disease. Halim et al. (2024) and Fikre and Amdework Atsbeha (2025) claimed that they are vulnerable to negative emotional and psychological effects due to their harsh living conditions and are deprived of basic need of food, cloth and shelter. Zahangir et al. (2024) conjectured that because they appear

to be invisible; many government officials, policymakers, and society pay them little or no attention. This paradox is misleading and convoluting and compounds their rehabilitation. On one hand they are unnoticeably and are disregarded by the masses. On the other hand, they are quite visible on the streets to such extent that they habitually become a nuisance. This dilemma forms an integral component of their lives and constantly contributes to their complexity and uniqueness. Moreover, it compounds the process of rehabilitation.

### ***Counselling and Guiding Street-connected Children: An Overview***

Counselling and guiding street-connected children principally involves establishing trust, providing emotional support, and helping them to develop coping mechanisms to address the challenges they face on the streets. This frequently includes addressing issues pertaining to mental health, substance abuse, and exploitation (Al-Hroub et al., 2021; Aslan & Mohamed, 2023; Nilasari et al., 2023). Above all, counselling and guidance promotes their overall well-being and facilitates their integration into society. According to Md and Rajib (2025), Mhuru and Mutekwe (2025), building a trustworthy relationship incorporates the establishment of safe and supportive environments where these children feel comfortable sharing their experiences. Gunhidzirai (2023), and Alem and Laha (2021) believed that it is important to note that many children experience deep trauma, grave anxiety, and various mental health challenges. Nonetheless, counselling can help them process these experiences and develop healthy coping strategies. Since street-connected children are vulnerable to substance abuse, counselling can be useful in assisting them to effectively address addiction and its underlying causes (Frederick et al., 2023; Bhattacharyya & Chakraborty, 2024; Goodman et al., 2024). Counselling and guidance can be instrumental in motivating them to develop resilience, which is their ability to overcome adversity and properly cope with difficult scenarios. Those who provide counselling can help these children to reconnect with their families, access education and vocational training, and reintegrate into mainstream society. Some of these challenges incorporate social stigma and exploitation, and community outreach programs to raise awareness about the needs of these children and connect them with proper support services. It is also important to have regular training programs and activities for social workers, police officers, and other stakeholders to enhance their ability to work effectively with street-connected children and properly address their needs. A noteworthy component of counselling involves creating safe and ample spaces where street-connected children can easily access counselling, therapeutic activities, and the necessary support (Maepa, 2021).

Chikoko et al. (2021), and Osmani and Hossain (2020) held the firm view that practitioners need to be empathetic and actively listen to the various perspectives of children without being judgmental. They must remember that the needs of children are unique, and they should adjust their services to cater to their needs. Above all, counselling should focus on building on the existing strengths and resilience of these children. This may involve working and collaborating with other organizations and

stakeholders. By providing suitable counselling and adequate support, street-connected children can be supported to overcome adversity, improve their well-being, and build a brighter future.

### **Theoretical Framework: Maslow and Rogers**

This researcher uses two humanitarian theorists: Maslow and Rogers. They were specifically selected because they accentuate the inherent goodness and potential worth of individuals. Both theorists focused on the individual's subjective experience and the capacity for personal growth and self-actualization. These two theories help to explain why street-connected children prioritize certain needs and how their development is impacted when these needs are not properly satisfied. According to Rojas et al. (2023) and Papaleontiou-Louca et al. (2021), Maslow resolutely suggests that individuals, including street-connected children, must satisfy basic needs like physiological and safety needs before they can progress to higher-level ones like belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. Rogers firmly affirmed the relevance of person-centered approach which is highly relevant for street-centered children. His emphasis on unconditional positive regard, empathy, and creating a safe and accepting environment can be instrumental in helping these vulnerable children to rebuild their self-worth, dignity and foster personal growth. The work conducted by Rogers among troubled children in his early career also laid a firm foundation for his broader theories. This is because he clearly demonstrated the applicability of his approach to diverse populations, including those who face extreme adversity like street-centered children (Takvi et al., 2023; Durmuş, 2024). When Maslow's theory is applied to street-connected children the scenario is completely different. It is abundantly explicit that street-connected children constantly struggle to meet basic needs like food, shelter, and sleep due to poverty and lack of family support. Unsurprisingly, living on the streets exposes them to many dangers like violence, exploitation, and lack of access to health care (Gao, 2022). On the streets, they do not have stable relationships and cannot experience a sense of belonging. Since this need cannot be gratified and forms a vital stage according to Maslow, it negatively impacts the emotional and social development of these children. In addition, street-connected children face stigma and discrimination, and this severely hampers the building of their self-esteem and self-confidence. According to Maslow this could also curtail their growth and development since they cannot progress to the next level. Yu (2022) mentioned that when this level is unattainable, reaching their full potential is almost impossible since the basic needs cannot be satisfied. Based on Maslow's approach opportunities for education, personal growth and even rehabilitation via counselling and guidance remain impossible. However, Yu (2022) believed that by understanding these various needs, organizations and individuals can better intervene and offer support services to properly cater to the specific challenges faced by street-connected children. In this way they can assist them to move towards a more stable and fulfilling life although it is not easy to attain.

As mentioned above, street-connected children frequently experience trauma, neglect, and a lack of proper relationships. It is interesting to note that Rogers resolutely emphasized the significance of therapeutic relationship. This is pivotal since it includes

empathy, genuineness, and unconditional positive regard. These elements are vital when rendering assistance to street-connected children because it can assist them to begin to heal from past experiences and build worthwhile trust. A noteworthy aspect of Rogers' theory highlights the significance of self-concept and self-esteem. Because of their unique circumstances, street-connected children often have a negative self-image and very low self-worth. Thus, this theory can be purposeful in assisting them to create a more positive self-concept and foster a deep sense of their own value and potential. However, it is not easy to attain.

Rogers resolutely believed in the innate capacity of individuals for self-actualization. When this theory is applied to street-connected children it can create a supportive and empowering environment (Chen, 2024). Moreover, the person-centered approach can help street-centered children to reconnect with their own inner resources, identify their needs and goals, and begin to make worthwhile choices that lead to personal growth and positive change. As noted above, this is difficult to accomplish with street-connected children, but it is not impossible. Rogers' concept of incongruence can be relevant to street-connected children who may have internalized negative messages from their environment or experienced a lack of acceptance. A person-centered approach can help them to reconcile these inconsistencies and move them towards greater congruence and psychological well-being (Crowter, 2022). Most of all, Rogers' approaches resolutely emphasize the significance of comprehending the entire person, which includes their social and environmental context. This is of paramount importance for street-connected children, who often face multiple challenges related to poverty, lack of access to basic needs, and social stigma (Stephen, 2023). Hence, a person-centered approach can help address these broader issues while also focusing on individual psychological needs.

It is undoubted that the work of both Maslow and Rogers has strongly influenced various fields, including education, counseling, and social work. Their theories are purposeful and applicable to street-connected children since their fundamental principles can be adapted and applied in diverse settings to support the needs of these children. Some of these are self-actualization and person-centered education programs, community-based support services, and individual counseling. The concept of self-actualization and person-centered approach are profitable and beneficial because it provides a firm framework for comprehending the unique needs of street-centered children (Feigenbaum, 2023). In addition, it offers a good pathway to proper healing, growth, and empowerment. It also emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive and accepting environment where these children can begin to rebuild their lives and realize their full potential.

Although Maslow and Rogers have significantly added purposeful contribution to scholarship and to humanity there are some criticisms. The hierarchy of needs presented by Maslow lacks empirical evidence and arbitrary order. It is also culturally biased. The person-centered theory by Rogers is general and can be biased and subjective. Listed below are some of the limitations of the two theories, Maslow and Rogers.

Maslow's theory lacks empirical evidence, and the fixed hierarchical structure of needs is questionable. This author believes that some individuals, even street-centered children can pursue multiple needs simultaneously. This theory is not global since it heavily reflects values and culture of the Western World. Since many street-centered children are from other parts of the globe it can be difficult to apply this theory as a model. The theory relied on a relatively small and specific sample primarily Western of successful individuals. Mention must be made that many of these children have not achieved success. The concept of self-actualization is unclear and difficult to grasp, especially where these children are concerned. In addition, some critics argue that Maslow's hierarchy neglects the influence of social, economic, and political contexts on individual needs and motivation. These elements are necessary when trying to assist street-connected children.

Like Maslow, the concept put forward by Rogers is subjective and lacks empirical testing. The focus on individual experience also makes it challenging to generalize the findings to broader populations or different cultural contexts. Since Rogers emphasized empathy and unconditional positive it is potentially biased and subjective into the therapeutic process especially where street-connected children are concerned. Some critics argue that Rogers overemphasized the individual and neglected the influence of social and cultural factors on personality development. The latter are very important elements when dealing with these children. The concept of the fully functioning person is criticized as an idealized and potentially unattainable state. In addition, the idea of conditions of worth is difficult to distinguish between healthy self-esteem and conditional self-regard.

## Method

McGrath et al. (2020) and Newman (2023) described a critical literature review as a methodology that tries to collect relevant information related to a given field of study. Following these guidelines this review attempted as far as possible to accurately identify most significant terms pertaining to this topic. Several peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, and academic book chapters, that present empirical research results were included. Each article was carefully read to properly ascertain its meaning and contribution to this study. This research utilized several databases. Google Scholar provides scholarly and contemporary literature from different publishers, repositories, and websites. It also offers a wide overview of the topic. Thus, this critical literature review emphasized the interpretation, critique, and theoretical insight. BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine focuses on open-access scholarly documents and presents access to a wide range of full-text articles and other research outputs relevant to this research. CORE specializes in open access research and was accessible to a vast collection of scholarly papers. Semantic Scholar is powered by artificial intelligence that focuses on scientific literature. It was beneficial since it accentuated key concepts and identified worthwhile academic papers. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a directory that indexes open access, peer-reviewed journals (Bongomin et al., 2022).

To make these searches more effective the following activities were employed. It used a combination of broad, multidisciplinary databases and subject-specific ones. The

use of keywords and subject headings were also incorporated. It further explored features like phrase searching, field restrictions, and citation searching to refine the results. It also utilized resources like conference proceedings, reports, and theses, which provided valuable insights. It used citation management tools such as: Tools like Zotero, Mendeley, or Paperpile to assist in organizing and managing of the references (Zheng et al., 2023).

This critical literature review is not without criticism. It only relied on methods other than direct observation and experimentation. This had the potential for lacking sufficient justification and can be susceptible to biases. It can be argued that without empirical foundation, this method can lead to unfounded and unrealistic conclusions or theories that are difficult to validate. Furthermore, this non-empirical approach can sometimes be seen as conservative, hindering revolutionary progress due to the lack of empirical input. To address these criticisms this researcher clearly articulated the justification for its use, acknowledged its limitations, and demonstrated its value in addressing the research questions. This was accomplished providing a strong theoretical foundation, accentuating the logical consistency and coherence of the approach, and highlighting the contribution to knowledge and understanding, even in the absence of empirical data.

## **Results and Discussion**

The literature review presented the complexity it trying to arrive at a single unified definition for street-connected children and showed how these children are classified in a pessimistic and unsatisfactory manner. The term street-connected children were specifically selected because it incorporates the diverse and unique experiences that these children encounter every day. It is also more acceptable since it goes beyond the unsuitable label of the term street children. It can be clearly deduced that street-connected children comprise of minors who depend on the streets for survival. Although their reality is harsh, they continue to live and work on the streets and occupy public spaces, some of which are very filthy, uninhabitable and unsanitary. While life on the streets is dreadful and appalling, their connection to it is necessary and forms an essential component of their daily lives and identities. Although street life is unbearable and the reality of these children is convoluted, they must be properly assisted and integrated into society.

Globally, street-connected children have attracted attention from scholars, policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and other stakeholders (Embleton et al., 2020; Fantahun & Taa, 2022; Fikre, 2024; Sharma, 2020). This attention portrays them as victims of circumstances and highlights them as inherently incapable of attaining a successful life. These perspectives compound their scenario and make it almost impossible for them to realize their potential (Abebe, 2008, 2019; Aptekar & Stoeklin, 2014; Qvortrup, 2015). Such representations focused on their vulnerability and dependency, and are promoted by charitable organizations, which frame street-connected children as abandoned children who deserve to be assisted (Beazley, 2003). This researcher resolutely argued that this charity narrative only seeks to accentuate the

conditions that these children encounter and overshadows their capacity for resilience, and innovation. It also compounds their situations and makes rehabilitation an unachievable task. According to Abebe (2009), Aptekar and Stoeklin (2014) and Fikre (2024) this charity model is unhelpful and only diminishes these children to mere passive recipients of aid. It does little to acknowledge the strategies they develop to navigate life on the streets. This researcher also advocated that there ought to be a paradigm shift. Street-connected children cannot be only viewed as vulnerable. They are resourceful and capable of being resilient amid adversities. To address this dilemma, these findings accentuate the urgent need to rehabilitate and assist them to be resilient. This is discussed under two basic headings: integrating street-connected children and promoting resilience: A community-based approach.

### ***Integrating Street-connected Children***

The lives of street-connected children are surrounded by misfortune, including a lack of social, educational and emotional support. To address some of these issues, Nurwati et al. (2022) and Suyuti et al. (2024) affirmed the importance of educating these children. Asror and Wahyudi (2021) and Lestari et al. (2021) supported this position and further indicated that education is beneficial since it addresses their intellectual, moral, and spiritual needs. This author agrees that although education is primordial it cannot be partial but must be holistic and all embracing. It must be extensive and incorporate the entire person. Comprehensive education firmly emphasizes a holistic approach to learning, including academic, social, emotional, and practical skills development. The primary objective is to adequately prepare these children for a better standard of life by assisting them to think critically, solve problems and remain resilient and focused amid adversities. This approach often involves integrating different subjects, promoting interdisciplinary learning, and encouraging students to connect their learning to practical challenges and follow purposeful counselling, guidance and advice. The latter is extremely important since it allows street-connected to maintain their composure amid difficulties. Although psychological counselling is beneficial to proper integration, Kudenga et al. (2024) believed that persistent rejection and unrelenting discrimination are a grave deterrent to this process. It is so serious that Bejenaru and Tucker (2017) claimed that some children are even rejected by their own families. According to Bhattacharjee and Veitch (2020), this level of stigmatization is so chronic that these children are continuously treated with contempt and are purposefully excluded from all activities. Mwendu et al. (2022) contended that poverty and joblessness are also main challenges to their reunification in society. For integration to be purposeful these children need counselling and guidance to support them (Schrader-McMillan & Herrera, 2016). In this regard this author continues to argue that a comprehensive and holistic approach is advantageous and beneficial. This approach is fundamental for the following reasons. It recognizes and appreciates the value of the developing the entire person. Some of these areas include the: cognitive, social, emotional, and practical skills coupled with academic knowledge and expertise. A holistic education motivates students to make connections between different subjects and see how they relate to practical situations. Moreover, it resolutely emphasizes the

functional application of knowledge and skills. In this way, it properly prepares them for future careers and teaches them how to be responsible citizens. A core principle is to afford equal access to quality education for all students, regardless of their background or perceived ability. Since street-centered are no exceptions, these services should be available to them. A noteworthy aspect of quality education is that it fosters the ability to adapt to change, solve problems, and think critically. This is advantageous and purposeful for street-centered children since it recognizes the importance of developing emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and social skills.

### ***Promoting Resilience: A Community-based Approach***

Farchi (2025) believed that since its inception, the notion of resilience has undergone several paradigm shifts. Joyce et al. (2018) and Denckla et al. (2020) opined that the notion of resilience is extensively researched and there are various definitions. According to Ayed et al. (2019) and Stainton et al. (2019) resilience is the ability to effectively confront adversities and maintain focus. One of the fundamental concepts of resilience is the ability to reevaluate and take control of a given situation. This is beneficial for street-connected children since it allows them to reinterpret their adversities and forge a different destiny (Di Domenico & Mapelli, 2023).

It cannot be overemphasized that many street-connected children daily experience stress and emotional difficulties that can grossly hinder their chances of rehabilitation, integration and being resilient. On the streets they are continuously surrounded with strife, interpersonal conflicts, and discrimination that can increase their level of stress levels and disrupt their emotional welfare. This theory shows that the ability to develop and utilize emotional resilience is essential for maintaining optimal well-being and performance. This theory can be instrumental in fostering resilience and helping their families and the community to accept these children. Like Maslow and Rogers, this theory seeks to develop self-awareness and provides an understanding of emotions. This is primordial for the continued growth and development of these children, and for purposeful resilience and meaningful integration. In addition, it focuses on cultivating effective coping strategies such as relaxation techniques, mindfulness, and social support. The community can be instrumental in this regard. Members of families and the community can provide strong social support networks and utilize positive interpersonal relationships to embrace these children.

Rachmad (2022) opined that the community needs to provide a structure and a sustainable approach. This can be achieved by properly assessing the situation and carefully identifying the needs of these children. This can be accomplished using some techniques, such as training on developing emotional policies regulations that support the welfare of these children. In addition, continuous evaluation and adjustment of strategies based on individual feedback are essential to ensure proper integration. There are some challenges in implementing this theory. Some of these are resistance to change, a lack of proper understanding of the importance of emotional resilience, and limited resources to sustain the integration process. Nonetheless, with strong support from the community these challenges can be minimized (Rachmad, 2022).

## Conclusion

The paper noted the complexity that continuously surrounds these children and mentioned that they are always viewed in an unsatisfactory manner. Based on the critical literature review it carefully analyzed the significance of providing psychological guidance to street-connected children. It accentuated the importance of integration for these children and the need for them to become resilient and not be easily overwhelmed. This requires a holistic approach to education and the involvement of the community. This research is worthwhile since it helps to clarify complex concepts about street-connected children. It also evaluated theoretical frameworks, and highlighted the need for empirical evidence. Despite these promising conceptual insights, this review is still limited by its reliance on only secondary sources and the absence of original data collection or statistical analysis. The synthesis reflects literature published only up to July 2025, potentially overlooking more recent developments, and variations in how resilience could be affirmed among street-connected children. To address these limitations, future research should employ empirical methodologies, including longitudinal, experimental, and mixed methods designs, and incorporate the perspectives of organizations, educators, community members, street-connected children and significant others via interviews, focus groups, or surveys. Such studies can provide pertinent evidence to refine strategies that promote psychological guidance and affirm resilience among street-connected children.

One of the principal causes of the social exclusion of street-connected children is their separation from parents, families and communities. Many of these children live on the streets because they are abandoned, neglected, and abused by members of their family. Street-connected children are excluded by the misapprehension of the people. In this regard, the media can be instrumental in trying to change the negative attitude of people. The media can focus more on strategies that can help in addressing the basic problems of these children as well as their deprivation from social relationships. Community-based organizations can also make a significant input. They can promote a culture of respect that will affirm the welfare of these children. They can be more influential in assisting them to integrate in their respective communities. More rehabilitation centers must be established to provide ample educational, psychological and social services to support the well-being of these children.

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