EVALUATION OF REUNIFICATION PROGRAMMES RENDERED BY SERVICE PROVIDERS IN RESPECT OF STREET CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES/HOUSEHOLDS.

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The purpose of this study is to evaluate the reunification programmes that are supposedly provided to street children by the service providers. It further examines why street children abscond from the institutions and return to the streets. The research speculates that children behave this way because no reunification programmes are used in the institutions. The research also asks whether if such programmes are available, are their effectiveness ever evaluated? If no, who are the people involved during their evaluations? What can then be done in order to improve this phenomenon of street children lives to the vulnerable children. During data collection in June 2006 concerning this study it emanated that 89% service providers around KwaZulu Natal Province did not have reunification programmes whilst 11% mentioned that their Places of Safety only use the monitoring forms to assess the progress of the street children during institutionalisation period. Even these monitoring forms do not reach the objective of rehabilitating the children because the children abscond before the end of the monitoring exercise. The Social Welfare White Paper 1997 Sec 69 (i) had plans to develop programmes concerning provision of safe environment and taking care of homeless young adults and those surviving on the streets but no programmes have since been in place. This abstract intends to give the well planned and standardised Reunification Program Manual Model devised by the researcher to be used by the service providers.