Precariousness and Teenagers' Family Breach in Lubumbashi- Study Conducted at Bakandja, Ville Center

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Abstract: *This study aims at describing the causes of teenagers' family breach in Lubumbashi. It is a question of elucidating one of the problem situations which gangrene the family system. The scientific interest is mainly focused on the contribution of the descriptive method thanks to the documentary technique in order to understand the causes of the breach of family life among teenagers in the city of Lubumbashi. As far as the population is concerned, it is composed of 40 children interned at BAKANJA VILLE CENTER that we approached without sampling because of its reduced size. The selected reading grids are the symbolic interactionism of Le Breton (2009) and the social actor of Debuyst (1990), which led us to consider the actors in presence (children in family breach) as social (not living in isolation), active and reflexive actors.*

Keywords: Family, structural organization, family breach, Teenager

1. Introduction

Every human being lives in a family pattern where he is in harmony with other members. Between them, members of a family develop a complex set of interactions, which includes attitudes, representations, sympathies and antipathies. This leads to the idea that the family is a system.

This is how clinical psychology is currently talking about the family system, while some children are referred to as "street children" Or "children in the street ". In the city of Lubumbashi, many are interned in recovery centers because of the fact of leaving their families. In this study, the presence of recovery centers shows that there are families that would cause problems.

The system as a functional whole is characterized by interactions of the members that compose it in order to live in homeostasis which is usually the goal set by a family system. To do this, one might wonder what can be on the basis of family breach. We are interested in the situation of street children who are currently supervised in a rehabilitation house called Bakanja Ville for their family and social reintegration.

For J. Lazar (2002, p.137): "the family undoubtedly plays a fundamental role in the primary socialization of individuals". J. P. Meunier & D. Peraya (2010), lead us to understand that the family in as long as the system is not to be passed on to one of its members or to all of its members, but rather to the concept of interdependence, feedback between members and the mechanisms of regulation and control of the family system. Thus the child as a member of a system refers to the system to which he belongs as far as the development of his personality is concerned.

According to J.E. Dumas (2007, p.45): "human development is the result of reciprocal interaction processes that becomes progressively more complex between an active biological and psychological organism and the person, the objects, and the symbols that he encounters in his immediate environment". Interferences in this development can be a source of the presence of the so-called children "from the street"

For P. Kasongo Maloba (2011, pp.29, 30) "a street child is one who has no house and who permanently lives in the street. He works and sleeps in the street, without any intention of going back to his home, which sometimes does not exist or it does not want to take him back, and finally he, the child has mourned and does not want to hear about his home. It is thus a complete breach with his family that he wrongly or not accuses of having abandoned him".

As for us, a street child is every child in partial or total breach with his family to which he belongs and that has chosen the street as a place of refuge where he lives in harmony with others. Anyone under the age of 18 breaks up with their family, opts for the street as their home and may or may not return to their home later.

During the pre-survey, we visited Bakanja-Ville Center, a house where many children, known as "vagabonds" or "Shegués", are welcomed by supervisors for various reasons. It is thus useful to know if there are motives which would have pushed these children to leave the paternal roof. From this analysis, a question arises below:

Between the precariousness of socio-economic conditions, socio-family causes and political events, what are the causes that would prevail in the breach of certain children with their family system to which they belong?

2. Theoretical framework

2.1. State of the question

According to P. Paillé & A. Mucchielli (2003, p. 38 "a man is not born alone and does not know alone. It is impossible for him to experience anything in the absence of a universe of reference, which forms the vessel of his experience". Our

research focuses on interfamily problems. Street children are members of the family systems; this indicates that there would be some families that would pose problems related to family breach in the institution of Lubumbashi. Thus, some studies are getting closer to our work.

P. Kasongo Maloba Tshikala (2006) conducted a study entitled "Support and Assistance measures for teenagers in difficulties in Belgium residential and ambulatory institutions". Through his research question: "what are the methods of helping teens in difficulty? "He wanted to identify measures to be adopted to enable young people to fulfill their life's projects while maintaining conviviality. It was assumed that support for difficult teenagers would be effective if their freedom is respected without judging their person and without accepting their negative actions.

In his work, he found that adolescence is a stage of development of the individual characterized by the crisis related to this age. It is a moment when everything seems possible, the teenager sees himself as a stranger, he does not recognize himself, but he wants to recognize himself. All the challenge for the adult will be to support him, to help him, to accompany him by ensuring that he keeps his feet on earth in order to maintain just enough balance. He talks about educating without punishing. After verification, his hypothesis was confirmed.

N. LUPITSHI WA NUMBI (2009) completed a doctoral dissertation in Criminology entitled: "The trajectories of youth street exits in Lubumbashi". He stipulates that economic causes, in a large measure the parents' incapacity is rooted in the destructuring of the social system. He also reveals that sometimes parents display a deliberate irresponsibility. He pinpoints political, cultural causes and family hazards as predominant factors. As a result of political causes, families are decimated and the population of orphans (potential candidates for the street) is increasing. Cultural causes focus on witchcraft, bewitchment, and demonic possession, hence the expulsion of young people from the family roof. As for family hazards, he mentions conjugal conflicts, the abuse of young people and the mental and / or physical incapacity of parents.

From the preceding, the similarity of these studies with ours is related to street children. However, our study differs from the others in the field of investigation which is a half-closed center, the methodological devices of collection and analysis of the data and finally in the way to approach and to register the subject in clinical psychology more particularly in psychopathology and systemic.

It goes without saying that the hypothesis underlying the question of the problematic of the study can be summed up as follows: precariousness of socio-economic conditions would prevail over socio-family causes and political events in teenagers' family breach in Lubumbashi.

2.2. Theoretical approaches

This study is underpinned by the theory of symbolic interaction of David Breton and by that of the social actor Christian Debuyst. We give space to symbolic interactionism because it gives a great importance to the significances spontaneously elaborated by the actors during their interactions. The basic idea is that the individual controls his actions and acts on himself and all is done according to circumstances or contexts. Therefore, according to A. Mucchielli (2004, pp. 127-128), symbolic interactionism gives a theoretical place to the social actor as an interpreter of the world around him.

The concept of social actor assumes, according Debuyst C. (1990, p. 25-26) that a man situates what he is confronted to in relation to his experiences and how he interprets them in relation to other constitutive elements of the world around him, and reacts as a function of a precise strategy or a way, of a more or less explicit project which animates him. Very briefly, it follows from this definition that under the term "social actor" should retain two key ideas. On one hand, the subject is not a passive being whose behavior would result from a set of determinisms or could be explained in terms of stimulus-reaction. On the other hand, the subject is not an abstraction to the extent that it carries a specific point of view that depends on the position he occupies in the social context, the history that has been his and projects around which his activity is organized.

Generally, the village consists of a set of clans, consisting of several lineages which are the stem of many families. The members of the same family live together, even if exceptionally a member, for reasons of misunderstanding, may prefer to live alone or in another clan. According to this principle, every boy who has become an adult builds his hut near that of his parents. This cohesion, which existed between members of a family, has decreased significantly as a result of the mistreatment and the introduction of transformations or mutation towards the Western world. The Congolese family is experiencing development tending towards Europe and the rest of the world. In the West, the family breach is taking off and the streets are flooded by children.

2.2.1. Mistreating families
Psychopathology and its correlation with systemic malfunction of the family bring us to the study of family malfunction. Families are increasingly confronted to child abuse. According to Mr. Bernard (2004, p.1), many causes are discussed in the etiology of violence against children in contexts such as unwanted birth, separated couple , children born out of the wedlock, unemployment, alcoholism, toxicomania of parents, disability of a child, abuse of parents in their childhood.

2.2.2. Integration of children, victims of family breach
For family therapists, when a psychopathology problem affects a family member, he becomes the bearer of the symptom of the family. This person with disturbed behavior or cognition has crystallized family communication in his mode of psychic functioning. Therapists, through family

interviews will aim at restoring the quality of communication between different members. This psychotherapeutic approach is one of the most effective in dealing with serious personality disorders in a family system.

3. Method

3.1. Procedure

In this point, we briefly describe the rehabilitation center for children in family breach called Bakanja-Ville which is our field of investigation. Then we present the population on which we conducted our study, the sample, the method as well as the instrument that allowed us to collect data.

In the city of Lubumbashi, we chose the institution where children in family breach are supervised in a half-closed manner, as well as services with a well-established organizational structure. Our choice was oriented towards Bakanja-Ville.

In order to supervise young people in family breach, an institution has been set up by the Salesians of Don Bosco in order to take care and improve the living conditions of children in family breach.

Bakanja "Ville" House is located in downtown on N'djamena Avenue at 683, opposite the former Tuendelee Park in the Lubumbashi Township.

3.2. Participants

The choice of participants of this institution is justified by the fact that the subject under study is a psychopathological problem of the family system. It is therefore appropriate to approach actors who have a troubled relationship with other members of the system because of various reasons that put them in that situation. In this way, they can react without hindrance to a question that is one of the causes that led them to leave their families.

No	Age range	Number
1	4-6 years	7
2	7-9 years	9
3	10-12 years	13
4	13-15 years	5
5	16 years old and over	6
Total		40

The population of our research consists of 40 participants interned in Bakanja-Ville that we have categorized into 5 classes according to age groups. We were motivated to draw up the two-year brackets by the fact that every child living in Bakanja Ville is supervised for two years and the family reintegration phase will follow.

3.3. Measures

We have used the descriptive method because it enabled us to present a quantity of descriptive statistical data and the use of mathematical models of phenomena called "street children."

Quantitative analysis has established relationships between social variables and appears to be an effective means of testing our research hypothesis by establishing causal relationships, particularly in the analysis of mobility and societal rise.

The descriptive method therefore consists, in this work, of describing the characteristics of the child in family breach phenomenon, in this case the causes of entry into the street, to analyze them in their contexts in order to explain the phenomena "street children". We used it because the situation to be studied is quite clear. This description is essentially quantitative.

Our data collection device included the documentary technique that was the subject of indirect observation, because it deals with the facts that are traces, phenomena that we want to study and that can collect information on the trajectories of entry into the street by children in Lubumbashi. This technique allows us to study and analyze the documents as well as each child's card. These cards determine the date of entry, the identities, the cause and the evolution of the child during his internment in the center. Documentary technique has allowed us to collect observable and quantifiable data, because this research consists in describing, explaining, controlling and predicting on the basis of indirect observation.

It results in numerical data that allow for descriptive analyzes, tables, statistical analyzes, search for links between variables or factors, correlation or association analyzes, etc. To analyze the data, we used the calculations of percentages that allowed us to evaluate the data, although they have limitations, we used them to identify differences between variables in order to identify which one would prevail over the other.

4. Results and analysis

This point devoted to the results obtained in the field, focuses on the interpretation of factors that have contributed to the breach of the links between children and parents and / or tutors. As previously reported, the data come from the personal files of each subject interned at the BAKANJA VILLE Center. They are presented in a rough way in the table, following the requirements of the documentary technique, we examine them in order to group them according to the causes retained in relation with the family breach and make their reading easy.

Indeed, these data are categorized in socio-economic conditions, socio-family causes and political events as described in Table 1.

Table 1: Causes of children family breach

Socio-economic Conditions of parents	fo	%	Socio-family causes	fo	%	Political events	fo	%	Total %
Repeated deprivation of food	2	5	Bad relationship between the child and step parents	1	2.5	Death of an important person	2	5	12 ,5
Maternal poverty	3	7.5	Separation of parents	2	5	Death of both parents	2	5	17,5
No-schooling	1	2.5	Quarrels with step mothers	1	2.5	Aggression war	1	2.5	7.5
Self-care- en charge (sell of small articles in town for survival)	2	5	Contempt et insults	2	5	Affective lack	2	5	15
Lack of food	2	5	Bad relation with the step mother	2	5				10
Abandon of the child	1	2.5	Particularity in the Judgment of the father	1	2.5				5
			Conflicts between members of the family	1	2.5				2.5
			Disinterestedness of the father towards the mother	1	2.5				2.5
			Absences of the father at home	1	2.5				2.5
			Considered as a wizard	1	2.5				2.5
			Exaggerated punishments	4	10				10
			Quarrels with his tutor	1	2.5				2.5
			Non-affection of the tutor	1	2.5				2.5
			Imitation of the child	1	2.5				2.5
			Decision of Peace Tribunal due to behavior such as : (theft, extortion, rape …)	2	5				5
Total	11	27.5		22	55		7	17.5	

Chart presented according to APA system

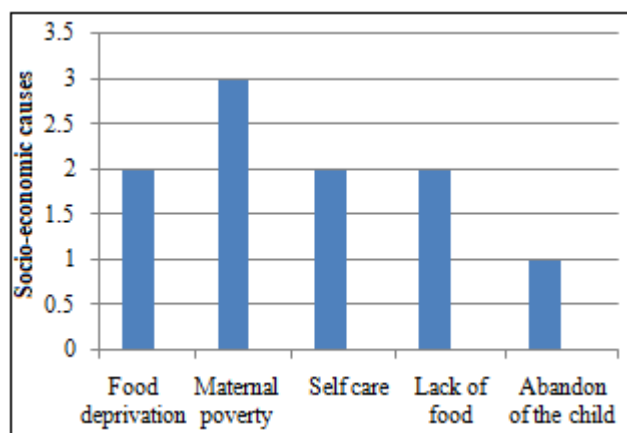## 4.1. Socio-economic conditions of the family breach

Figure 1: Socio-economic causes of family breach

These include material poverty, parents who fail to meet the material needs of the child, have an inability to care for the child so, they abandon him.

The lack of financial resources leads parents to behaviors such as repeated food deprivation, insufficient food, no-schooling of the child; by the feeling of helplessness, this child who suffers such violence, can take care of himself alone, while selling small articles on the streets of the city and the fact that the child spends much of his time in the street, he becomes a child in the street and finally, he contracts a form of freedom with his friends and he creates another system where he will feel better.

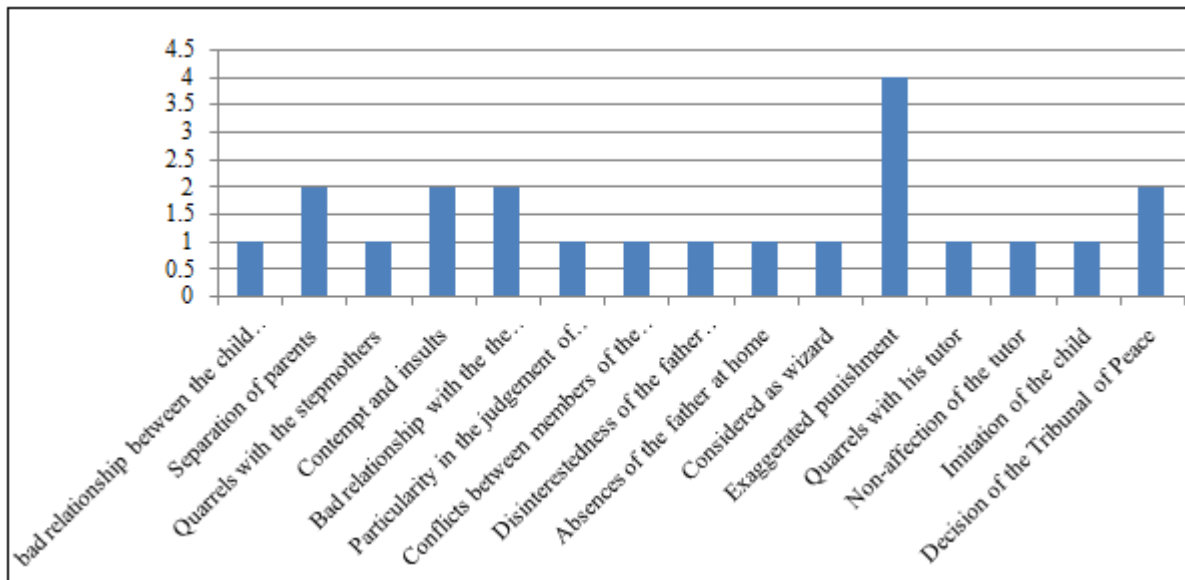## 4.2 Socio-family causes are causes of family breach

Figure 2: Social causes of family breach

Among the major social causes of family breach, the results reveal exaggerated punishments. They are followed by parental separation, contempt and insults, unfavorable relationship with ... and the Tribunal decision. A child who experiences family dislocation following separation from his parents cannot easily accept the presence of a stepfather, a substitute for paternal authority. His affectivity is shaken and his fulfillment compromised. This often leads on arguments, contempt and insults mainly from his stepmother and poisons the family atmosphere.

As for polygamy, man sometimes finds himself incapable of impartiality in the way he deals with women and children. This behavior often gives rise to disagreements and quarrels between stepmothers. The disinterest of the father towards the mother, his absences at home render the mother unable to fulfill her role; she has the role of the husband and her own, then the children who are neglected seek to set up a protection mechanism to fill the void created by the parents.

Under the effect of diffuse education, the child may exhibit unexpected. Far from seeking the cause of this conduct, the parents will drive the child out of the house, either by considering him or her as a wizard or witch, or by severely punishing him or her in a repetitive manner, which causes him or her to break with the family and to move to the street.

For offenses committed by the child such as extortion and theft, a child comes into conflict with the law, for certain behaviors which are not accepted in the society and when the child is sued to the tribunal, the Peace Tribunal for children in Lubumbashi takes him to a center for re-education, socialization and integration wherein there are other children in family breach.

4.3. Political events

The death of a parent is frustrating because the child is mourning as an adult. As part of this work, the death of one or both parents is due to wars which cause some children to miss a tutor. They move to the street and develop the feeling of abandonment.
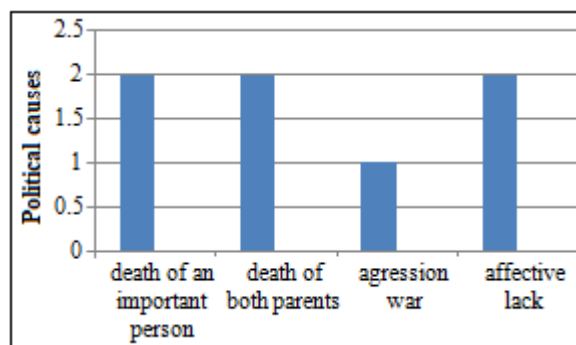

Figure 3: Political Causes of Family breach

Some elements support the results of our work namely: the level of education of the child; the duration in the center and the mode of entry in the center being voluntary or accompanied.

Many children in family breach and kept at Bakanja-Ville center have a lower level of education. As we notice on the graph they have reached only primary studies of which a reduced number has reached the sixth form of primary studies.
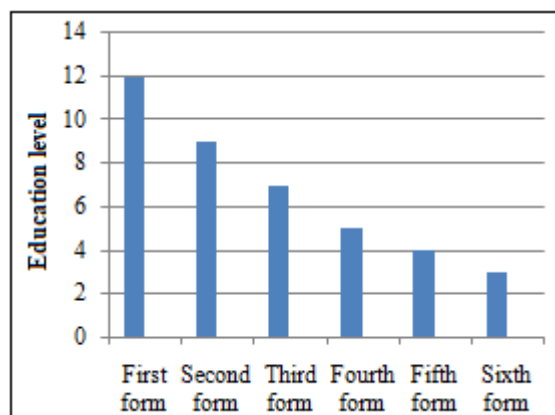

Figure 4: Education level of children in family breach

Thirdly, the duration of supervision of these children is three years maximum because at the end of every school year, there is a phase of reintegrating children in their families, but it sometimes happens that some children flee their homes to return to the center, this is the cause that there are children who have already made more than three years.
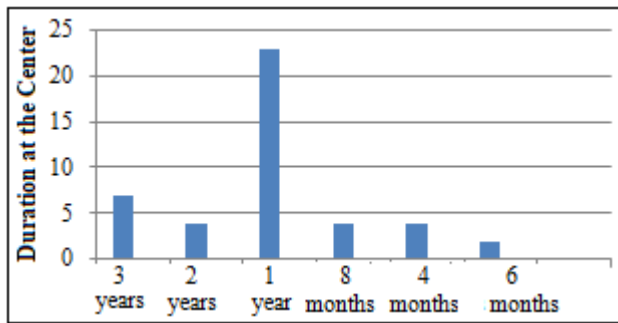

Figure 5: Duration at the center for children in a family breach

And fourthly, we note that the vast majority of children (29/40) go to Bakanja-Ville alone for shelter, only a few (11/40) are accompanied by either a person or by the Tribunal for children of Lubumbashi.
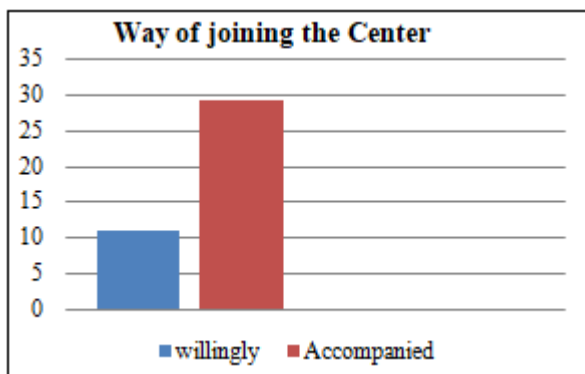

Figure 6: How to enter the Center for children in family breach

5. Discussion

By signing us into the logic of Debuyst (1990), we come to an understanding that children are not passive beings whose behavior would come from the set of determinisms face to an adverse relationship with the stepparents, this causes an unhealthy family atmosphere that makes the relationship unfavorable between the child and the step mother or stepfather, it will be followed with a breach with the family system and the unique environment ready to receive him without much constraint is the street because children control their actions and act on themselves depending on circumstances or contexts (Mucchielli, 2004). For Le Breton (2008), an interaction is a form of homeostasis that maintains within a universe an interdependence of the actors involved. Indeed, the results of this work are categorized according to the following variables: socioeconomic conditions, socio-family causes and political events.

Socio-family causes prevail with 22 out of 40 participants or 55% followed by socio-economic conditions with 11 out of 40 participants or 27.5% and finally are political events with 7 out of 40 participants or 17.5%. There are families who get prepared despite all, others do not get prepared to these precarious socio-economic conditions from which, generates family breach and thus the presence of children said of the street.

6. Conclusion

Our study focused on "socio-economic conditions and breach of family life among teenagers in Lubumbashi". Throughout our investigation, we have set the following targets: to identify the causes that cause children to break up with their family, to pinpoint child's family experiences and what push him/her away from the family to which s/he belongs. To identify these causes, we asked the following question: What are the causes of teenagers' family breach in Lubumbashi? And our hypothesis was formulated as follows: The precariousness of socio-economic conditions would prevail over socio-family causes and political events in Lubumbashi's teenagers' family breach. To achieve the objective of our study, we used the descriptive method. It was supported by the documentary technique for data collection, and the percentage calculation for the analysis of data.

The results show that our research hypothesis formulated in the introductory part is invalidated. Thus, we say that socio-family causes are reasons for teenagers' family life breach in Lubumbashi. Conclusively, we have just started a scientific study on socio-economic conditions and teenagers' family life breach in Lubumbashi. Our successors will broaden the scope addressing other aspects such as abuse and its psychophysiological effects on teenagers in Lubumbashi.

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