



Time for Development ?

Working with Street Children in Antananarivo, Madagascar

NGO Manda

The Non-Governmental organization "Manda" (Wall) is a state-independent Malagasy children's aid organization in Antananarivo, which supports about 300 street children and about 60 of their families. Manda was officially founded in 1999 and originated in the aid programs of the German association Zaza Faly e.V. (Happy Child), which was founded in 1994. As Manda carries out these aid programs in self-responsibility, the association Zaza Faly e.V. takes over the stability of public relations and financial resources. Manda's social station "Tsiry" (Germ) represents the main center of the organization and offers the children a daily food, a hygiene program, primary health care, preschool and education programs, as well as crafts, sports, creative or musical projects and activities. For children in need of long-term care, Manda additionally runs a small accommodation project (Gîte du Nuit). Furthermore Manda communicates with local schools, in order to integrate the children in regular educational frameworks. Youths get the further possibilities for vocational and formational training, as for example in the weaving mill "Vony" (Bud) and the carpentry "Felana" (Blossom). Related to Manda's street work activities, there are additional home visits for the purpose of conversation and repair.

Integrating Street Children ?

Though the already positive results and the improvements within the life situations of many children, Manda also faces structural challenges that stand in contact with economic, social and health-related issues. As the children mostly return to their familiar dwellings over night, they face a lack of water and sewage supply, which is why their physical and emotional condition gets continuously impaired. In order to integrate them into adequate living conditions, the organization is confronted with breaking through the preconditioned frameworks of poverty that are permanently being (re-) produced by the inherent power structures and their relation to international market and labour systems. Within this framework the fundamental question of my fieldwork researched on what basis Non-Governmental organizations such as NGO Manda develop their initiatives and what challenges they encounter in doing so.

A Matter of Time

Researching on street children in the context of Non-Governmental organizations entails different possible ways of access and analysis. By using the anthropological perspective on (social) time; processes of postcolonialism, development, childhood and adolescence on the street are made accessible from a corporate and cross-cutting viewpoint. In order to uncover the various intrinsic contradictions that arise about the problems and challenges of Non-Governmental organizations such as NGO Manda, time must be recognized as a multiple and integrative framework and analyzed at political, financial, ecological and narrative levels. This perspective highlights a confrontation of underlying participative, competitive, authoritarian, (miss-) communicative and sustainable horizons. Street Children and their families get increasingly conditioned to the construct of a temporality that is mainly predetermined by western standards. Local notions related to temporality, like for example the concept of "Moramora" (slow, with calm) clash not only with the implementation of different (time) categories, but stand simultaneously in an ambiguous relationship to the general "Vazaha" (foreign) image. By internally clarifying these conceptions, more sustainable and self-determined initiatives could be appropriately targeted.



Children playing games at the Social Center „Tsiry“



Children holding medical files on a donation call for volunteer doctors



A Mother participating in the Parental Education and Information Cours



A Street Worker of NGO Manda doing a Home Visit



Teaching the children about natural cycles and environmental protection



Children at a Yoga and Meditation Class that was offering once a week