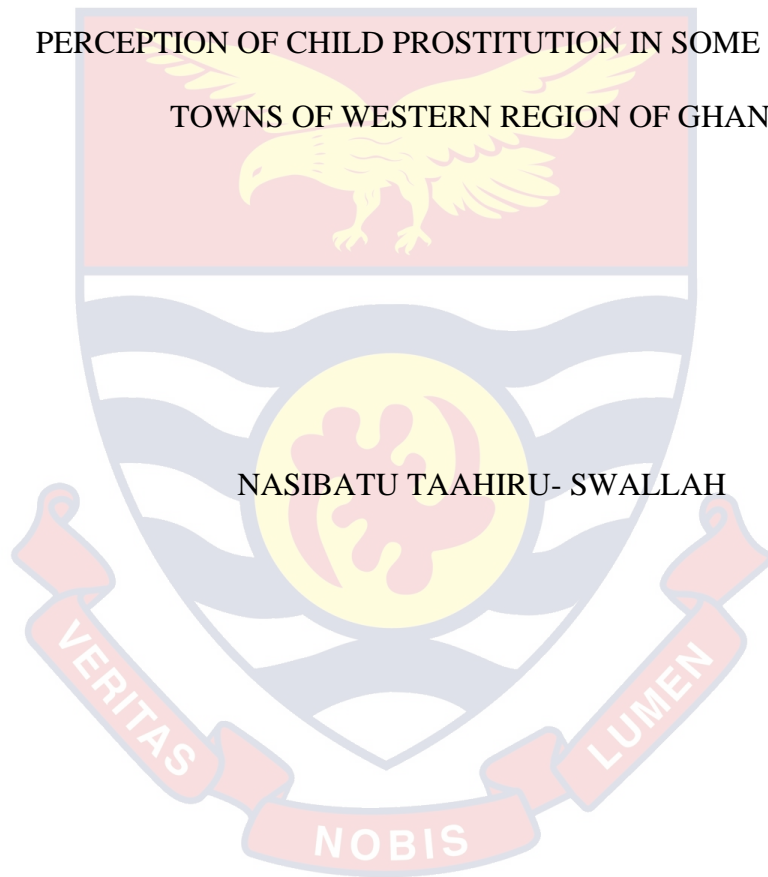


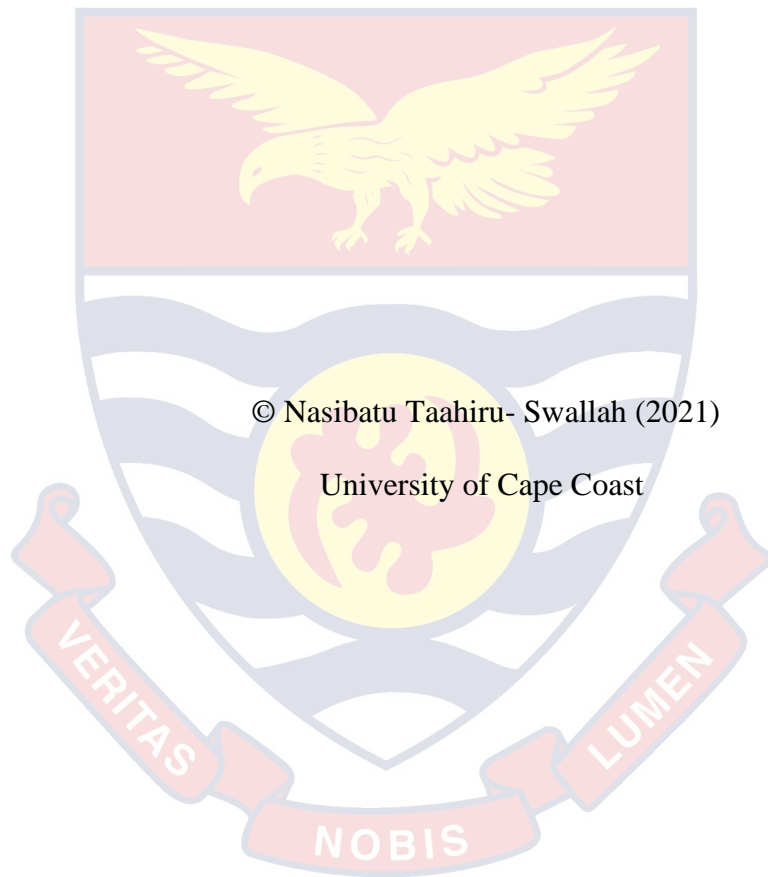
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

PERCEPTION OF CHILD PROSTITUTION IN SOME SELECTED  
TOWNS OF WESTERN REGION OF GHANA



NASIBATU TAAHIRU- SWALLAH

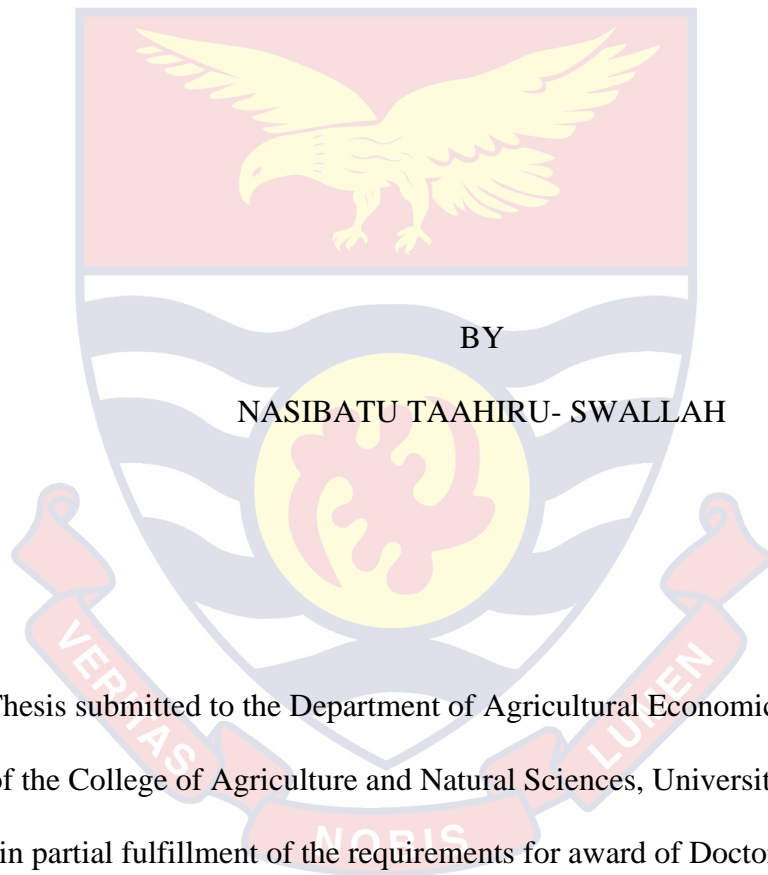
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PERCEPTION OF CHILD PROSTITUTION IN SOME SELECTED  
TOWNS OF IN THE WESTERN REGION OF GHANA



BY

NASIBATU TAAHIRU- SWALLAH

Thesis submitted to the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension  
of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, University of Cape Coast  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for award of Doctor of Philosophy  
degree in Non-governmental Organization Studies and Community

Development

SEPTEMBER 2021

## DECLARATION

### Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own original research and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this University or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature: ..... Date.....

Name: Nasibatu Taahiru-Swallah

### Supervisors' Declaration

We hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Principal Supervisor's Signature ..... Date: .....

Name: Prof. J.A. Kwateng

Co-Supervisor's Signature ..... Date: .....

Name: Dr. Albert Obeng - Mensah

## ABSTRACT

Child prostitution, involves commercial exploitation. This study explored the factors that contribute to child prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana. The research employed both qualitative and quantitative research. Descriptive correlational survey design, snow ball, purposive sampling technique and structured interview schedules were used to select one hundred and three (103) respondents out of which thirty (30) girl - prostitutes were selected for in-depth interview. Frequencies, percentages, measures of central tendency and variation were used to describe relationships among variables. The results from the study revealed that 71.8% of the respondents started prostitution between 16 -17 years while 28.2% started between 12-15 years. Most of the respondents had had formal or non-formal education. However, those above eighteen were mostly JHS graduates who could not continue to the Senior High School (SHS) due to poverty. Those who managed to learn a trade cited lack of start-up capital to start their own businesses as the main cause for entering into prostitution. A greater proportion of the respondents lived alone in non-residential areas, slums and brothels without any parental or guardian support. Majority of the girls, 95.1%, do not stay with both parents, 25.2% of the girls' parents are currently either divorced or 36.9% are separated. However, among the three factors leading and sustaining child prostitution, the economic factors were more prevalent. Recommendations such as stability of the family, parental control and financial support for parents from the state through Non Governmental Organizations and state agencies such as the livelihood empowerment program, improve girls' retention in school were given to mitigate the phenomenon of child prostitution.

**KEY WORDS**

Commercial

Exploitation

Girls

Parents

Prostitution



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## DEDICATION

To my daughter Madeeha and My Dad, Sheikh Taahir-Swallah Salaha





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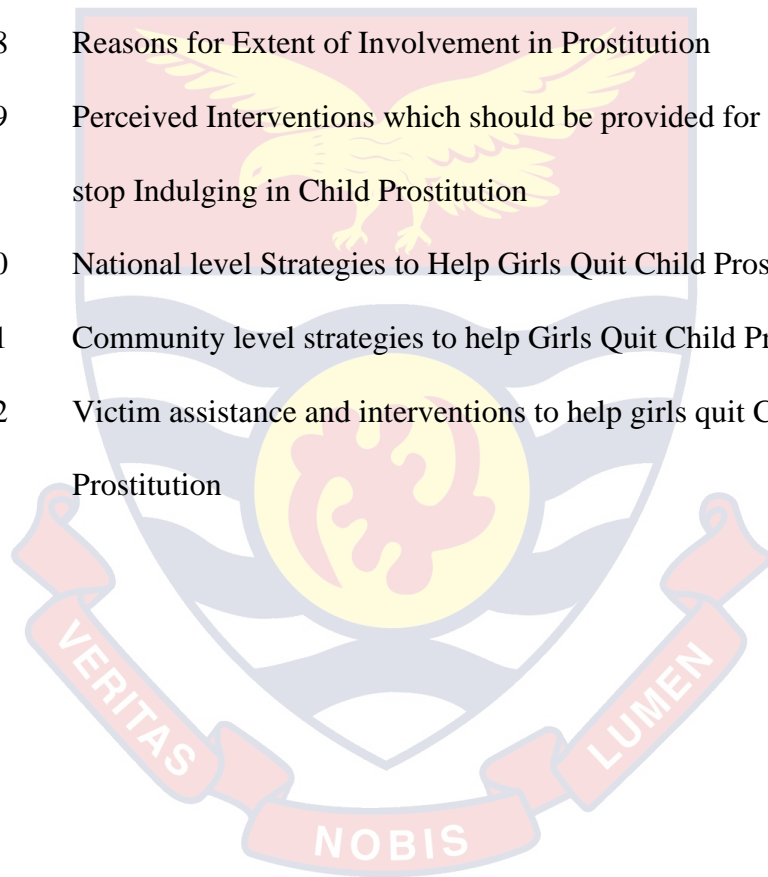
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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CCPCR	Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Children’s Rights
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLU	Child Labour Unit
CNCC	Cambodian National Council for Children
CPAA	Child Prostitution in Addis Ababa
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSEC	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
DCI	Data collection instrument
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
GES	Ghana Education Service
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILO/IPEC-ILO	International Program to Eliminate Child Labour
MOSALVY	Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation
MOWAC	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MOWVA	Ministry of Women’s and Veterans’ Affairs
PDE	Provincial Director of Education
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections

UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCACSEC	World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
WCCSEC	World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Tourism Organization



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Background of the Study

Prostitution is a multibillion-dollar industry that employs millions of women worldwide (Edlund & Korn, 2002). Although prostitution had occurred previous to colonial captivity, the clear link between urban prostitution and women's independence and material accumulation was unprecedented.

The act of rendering non-reproductive sex for a price is defined by Edlund and Korn (2002) as the act of rendering non-reproductive sex for a charge. According to a survey conducted by the International Labour Organization's International Labour Office, prostitutes account for 0.25 to 1.5 percent of the female population in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand (Lim, 1998). According to the survey, the sex industry represents for around 2% to 14% of the countries' GDP.

According to Edlund and Korn (2002), prostitution's unique trait is that it pays well regardless of the type of the employment. It also requires low skills, is labor intensive, and is dominated by women in most cases. Furthermore, even the lowest-paid form, streetwalking, can pay several times as much as full-time jobs with equal skill requirements. For example, press reports from Sweden in 1998 stated that prostitutes might earn up to SEK 14,000 (US\$ 1,750) each day, which equated to nearly a month's wages in a standard unskilled work (Aftonbladet, 1998).

Prostitution does not only involve adult women but also children (Edlund & Korn, 2002). Sexual exploitation is the most widespread kind of human trafficking, according to UNICEF Facts on Children (79 per cent).

Women and girls are disproportionately the victims of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation disproportionately affects women and girls. In 30 percent of the countries that provided gender statistics, women make up the majority of traffickers (UNICEF Facts on children May 2009).

According to the International Labour Organization's global assessment, 1.39 million persons are involved in forced commercial sexual exploitation, with 40–50% of them being youngsters, out of the 12.3 million people who are victims of forced labor (UNICEF Facts on children May 2009). An estimated 1.8 million juveniles (mainly girls, but some males) participate in the multibillion-dollar commercial sex trade each year (UNICEF Facts on children May 2009).

Child prostitution is defined as providing a child's sexual services or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activities for monetary or other consideration (Willis & Levy, 2002). According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is anyone under the age of 18 years old. Child prostitution is defined as the exploitation of minors for sexual fulfillment by adults in exchange for remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third party, which may include coercion, according to End Child Prostitution, Abuse, and Trafficking (ECPAT) International (2008).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention, adolescent sexual abuse is defined as the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society (62). (World Health Organization, 1999). The report further indicates

that child sexual abuse includes prostitution. This is exemplified by sexual behavior among a child and an adult or another child who is in a position of responsibility, trust, or power due to age or development, with the activity aimed to pleasure or satisfy the other person. According to the World Health Organization (1999), child prostitution encompasses inciting or coercing a child to engage in any criminal sexual behavior; exploiting a child in prostitution or other unlawful sexual activities; and exploiting children in pornographic performances and materials. Other studies show that child prostitution is one of the forms of child exploitation which involve engaging persons below age 18 years in unlawful sexual activities. The fact that the child being engaged in the sexual activity is unable to comprehend or not developmentally prepared makes him/her are exposed to emotional, bodily and psychological abuse

According to the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (WCACSEC, 1996), around one million children, usually young girls, are forced into prostitution every year around the world, with estimates ranging from one million to ten million. Between 2003 and 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducted a survey that found that 65 percent to 75 percent of trafficking victims were females, 15 percent to 25 percent were minors, and 15% were males (UNODC, 2009). The majority of adult and adolescent females who are trafficked are coerced into prostitution, according to the study.

A study by Deisher, Farrow, Hope and Litchfield (1989) also revealed that gender bias, discrimination, low education, and poverty are all elements that contribute to child prostitution on a social, cultural, and economic level. Prostitution is widely accepted in some communities, and laws against teenage

prostitution are not enforced, according to the authors, while male clients in other communities believe that adolescents are less likely to transmit HIV infection and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Children who are destitute, runaway, or abandoned are frequently coerced into prostitution, according to (Nichols & Nichols 2017). Pimps and traffickers actively recruit kids. However, in some poor nations, international sex tourism, or travel specifically for the goal of having sex, is a major source of child prostitution (Zafft & Tidball, 2010). Thus these literature reveals some ways that children get in to child prostitution. the perception that teenagers are less likely to share STD including HIV makes the demand for younger girls higher and further exposes them to more health hazards (both mental and physical)

According to Adedoyin and Adegoke (1995), the particular causes of child prostitution may vary by country and community. Children fleeing domestic abuse are driven into prostitution in some parts of Nigeria, according to the authors, whereas child prostitution in Nepal is blamed on poverty.

teenage prostitution is linked to childhood sexual abuse in the United States, according to Silbert (1981), though specific factors contributing to child prostitution vary by location in some countries, such as Thailand, and typically depend on ethnic origin, such as being from Bangkok or the northern tribal tribes. According to Taylor (2005), the higher rate of adolescent prostitution in Thailand could be attributed to religious views, citing a crucial element of Theravada Buddhism that emphasizes females' familial duty to provide for their families, especially their parents, without exception. He further explained that females tend to gravitate to prostitution since it is the quickest way out because it does not require streetwalking, pimp beatings, squabbling with deviant



customers, or trafficking in that region of the world, disparate many other countries where males are the financial providers for the family.

According to Taylor (2005), belief seems to be the primary cause for Thailand's high child prostitution rate, and while prostitution is forbidden in Theravada Buddhism, the emphasis on females supporting their family is larger. Therefore, it is allowed if it is done in order to help others even though the act of prostitution itself is wrong. This paragraph further explains factors contributing to child prostitution across the world.

Due to economic hardships, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC), now the Ministry of Gender (Ghana), Children and Social Protection, reported an increase in child migration of people areas in 2005. As a result of being forced to fend for themselves on the streets, child labor and school dropout rates have increased. They stated that up to 40,000 porters lived on the streets of major cities including Accra, Kumasi, and Takoradi, the bulk of them were females under the age of 18. They were among the most vulnerable child laborers because many of them also engaged in prostitution or have been sexually exploited in exchange for protection while living on the streets. According to the findings, over three-quarters of the street children polled said both parents were alive, implying that poverty is the root of the problem. According to Ghana Business News, the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly's Social Services and Gender Sub-Committee reported at a meeting in Skondi that children aged 10 to 17 years take their pimps to little kiosks on the beaches and pay GH2.00 before participating in sexual escapades with their clientele. It also mentioned Nkotompo, Sekondi, New Takoradi, and



European Town as districts in the metropolis where such immoral activities are common (Ghana web news, 2013)

Child prostitution is both an economic and social problem resulting in the moral degradation of children by depriving them of their innocence (Graham, 2008). Graham (2008) added that, in Ghana, the recent oil discovery has attracted a lot of expatriates. Further a worrying observation is that; many internal migrant workers are also drifting towards the oil hub which is mostly in the Western Region. Given that most of these migrant workers are single males, there is a very high potential for this phenomenon to engender prostitution in the country. As a result, the study looked into the factors that influence child prostitution in a few communities around Ghana's Western Region.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Illegal sexual pleasure was most widespread in developing countries, but it is not uncommon in developed ones (Philipson and Posner 1993; Atchison, Fraser and Lowman 1998). According to the 1992 National Health and Social Life Survey (NHSLS), roughly 2% of American women have ever sold sex (Laumann et al., 1994). According to a government estimate, there are 150,000 prostitutes in Germany (Morell, 1998), with 25,000 prostitutes in Amsterdam (Financial Times, October 27, 1999). The economies of developing countries have been hurt by mounting national debt, corruption, government waste, and rapid population growth (Trinidad, 2005). These circumstances, combined with poor educational levels, contribute to the high incidence of prostitution, particularly among children (Asian Development, 2008; US Department of State, 2009).

Militarization, foreign liability, price volatility in global commodities markets, and economic development strategy are some of the economic and social variables contributing to the problem of child prostitution in most developing nations, according to O'Donnell Davidson (2004). These are as a result of gender bias, discrimination, poor education, and poverty. He further explained that due to the organisational adjustment programme of the International Governments, according to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have no choice but to push prostitution and the sex industry marketplaces in order to pay off huge amounts of debt. According to O'Donnell Davidson (2004), the structural adjustment program has reduced salaries and employment, resulting in a rise in the rate of unemployment among the working population, resulting in the emergence of an informal economy that threatens established economies.

Around 2 million children are thought to be enslaved by adults through prostitution around the world, with the majority of them being females (Bakirci, 2007). Bakirci further points out that girls' prostitution is a multibillion-dollar global industry that puts money in the hands of private persons, governments, and law enforcement. Global sex tourism (traveling just for the purpose of having sex) is also a major source of child prostitution in several developing countries, according to him (CPAA, 2006). Child prostitution is a big business in Addis Ababa, according to the CPAA (2006), with a variety of players stretching from abductors at bus stops to blue cab drivers and bar/hotel owners who see children as the spice of their trade. Prostituted adolescents are frequently the ones who provide financial support (income remittances) to their families in such situations.

More importantly, it is stated that kids' prostitution seems to be the least investigated form of child sex trafficking (Williams & Frederick, 2009). They went on to add that the lack of research is attributable to the crime's secrecy, sex traffickers' intimidation and terror tactics, which keep prostituted teenagers quiet, as well as the frequent entrapment in prostitution of marginalized youngsters who have not yet attracted public interest. Child prostitution has existed as a phenomenon in some nations, embedded in historical and cultural practices, and in others, it has arisen as a result of socioeconomic inequality, subordination of women and children, and the perpetuation of attitudes and values that view children as property, according to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (WCCSEC) (1996).

Several elements that influence a minor's chances of becoming involved with prostitution have been repeatedly identified in the available literature on child prostitution (Estes & Wiener, 2005; Clawson, 2009). However, no research has been done to see how these traits interact to cause the enhanced sensitivity seen in some minors (Williams & Frederick, 2009; Godziak & Bump, 2008). Furthermore, the lack of systematic data collection on the occurrence of child prostitution in Ghana limits the scope of research. The majority of research are based on news reports and case studies that focus on a small area, usually one or two villages in a region.

In the Western Region of Ghana, child prostitution is a thriving business along the beaches and in other hotspots due to the recent oil find in the country resulting in the influx of foreigners and migrants from around the world and other parts of the country respectively Okyere (2017). The Region's social services and gender sub-committee noted that minors with ages ranging

between 10 to 17 years have sexual escapades with patrons on the beaches (Ghana News Agency, 2013).

In some selected Municipalities in Ghana's Western Region, it is therefore critical to investigate child prostitutes' opinions of the circumstances that lead to and sustain them.

### **The Objectives of the study**

The general objective of this study was to assess the perceptions of child prostitutes on the factors leading and sustaining them in some selected Municipalities in the Western Region of Ghana.

The specific objectives examined were to:

1. describe the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of children involved in prostitution?
2. describe the levels of involvement of children in prostitution
3. examine the factors that lead girls into prostitution and sustain the stay of the girls in prostitution
4. Analyse the perception of prostitutes about possible ways of curbing the issues of child prostitution in Ghana.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were formulated based on the research objectives:

1. What are the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of children involved in prostitution?
2. What are the levels of involvement of children in prostitution?
3. What are the factors that lead?
4. girls into prostitution and sustain the stay of the girls in prostitution

5. What is the perception of prostitutes about possible ways of curbing the issues of child prostitution in Ghana?

### **Significance of the Study**

The study's goal was to investigate juvenile prostitutes' perspectives of the variables that contribute to and perpetuate their prostitution in a few chosen Ghanaian municipalities. It's worth noting that the study's findings will contribute to knowledge by filling a vacuum in Ghanaian literature. The results would supplement the existing literature on child prostitution in Ghana. Prospective researchers in this area will find it useful as guide to their studies. Findings from the study can also be used in religious and moral education of children. This will make them aware of the driving forces and dangers of child prostitution which will help refraining from it.

In addition, the research could assist raise awareness of the situation in the region, allowing people to see the need for suitable re-enforcement procedures to protect children from being sexually exploited at the risk of their future. Furthermore, other interested organization such as NGOs, civil societies and advocacy groups interested in the welfare of children can also use findings from this study to plan their programs and activities.

The thesis will benefit future researchers and policymakers because it will provide a foundation for policymakers like the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection to draft policies to ensure the mental and physical well-being of children in the country.

### **Delimitations of the Study**

This study confined itself to child prostitution in some selected municipalities of the Western Region of Ghana. It did not concern itself with other forms of child exploitation / labour which takes place in the region specifically, the Ahanta, Shama, Secondi and Takoradi, Municipalities.

Furthermore, the research focused on child prostitutes' demographic and socioeconomic factors. In addition, the study investigated only girl prostitutes below 18 of age and older girl prostitutes above 18 who started prostitution before age eighteen.

### **Limitations of the Study**

Data collection from child prostitutes was based on memory recall. In addition, several respondents must be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, which may have influenced their responses to questions. However, in order for respondents to remain sane during interviews and discussions, data was collected before child prostitutes ingested drugs and alcohol and started their businesses at night. Also, they were paid by the researcher in order to have ample time for interviews and discussions.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

**Level of Involvement of Child Prostitution:** Child prostitution involves a child or minor. Prostitution of or by a person under the age of 18 is illegal in most jurisdictions, unless the kid is older than the jurisdiction's statutory age of consent. Sex trafficking is one of the ways prostitution of children manifests itself, where a child is forced into sex transactions. Other include the child being influence by friends (peer pressure) or the child entering in to it as a means of



financial survival or fleeing from domestic abuse. Child prostitution can take many forms: seasonal, full-time, or part-time.

**Seasonal level of involvement:** This includes those who take advantage of festive occasions such as Christmas, Easter, traditional festivals and public holidays to go round looking for clients interested in their sexual services. During such periods a lot of people staying abroad and in the cities come home, there are a lot of merry making, outdoor events, parties, musical shows, cinemas, theatres and more men than to patronise drinking spots, bars, clubs and discos during festive occasions than ordinary days thus making prostitution more lucrative and ordinary days

**Part time level of prostitution:** are those who engage in some economic activities such as street hawking, street vending, trading, apprenticeship or even schooling but also engage in prostitution either at night or on demand to supplement other earnings

**Full time level of prostitution:** are prostitute whose main means of livelihood is prostitution, thus sex work is the only work they do.

#### **Socio-economic Characteristics of Child Prostitutes**

Prostitution is a multibillion-dollar international trade that employs millions of people all over the world. Those are regulated in a variety of ways, but it is highly fragmented between markets, with a variety of middlemen (Thorbeck & Pattanaik, 2002). Prostitute services are sought by both men and women (by far the majority), and they expect 'management of sex' rather than just sex (Sanchez-Taylor, 2001). It's generally done for financial reasons, and it's mostly done by women, although not entirely. That is a high-risk activity for prostitutes (both in terms of violence and health risk), and prostitutes' interviews

suggest that the understanding and cope with such risks, as well as the ability to maintain emotional detachment and separation of one's prostitute identity from one's other identities, are all skills (Chapkis, 1997; McKeganey and Barnard, 1996).

### **Organisation of the Study**

The study was separated into five segments to create a more logical presentation, with each chapter linking to and building on the previous one. The first chapter focused on the historical information on the research issue, the statement of the problem, the research aims and questions, significance, delimitation, the study's limitations, and the study's organization. The Literature Survey was the subject of the second chapter, which included a review of pertinent literature on the scenario under inquiry. The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of child prostitution. This chapter discusses the theoretical and conceptual foundation that underpins the research.

The research methodology was addressed in the third chapter. This comprised study design, case selection, subject selection, sample procedures, instrumentation and data collecting mode, data analysis and results presentation, ethical considerations, and challenges encountered. The fourth chapter dealt with data analysis and interpretation from respondents who were female prostitutes. The Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations were delivered in the fifth chapter.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Introduction

This chapter aims at putting together existing empirical and theoretical studies on child prostitution. The chapter attempts to review relevant works studied in child prostitution with emphasis on the levels of involvement, perceptions of children in prostitution and factors influencing adolescent prostitution.

#### The Concept of Children's Right

The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was approved in 1989, defines a person as someone under the age of 18. The sexual exploitation of a child for monetary or in-kind remuneration, as defined by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children's findings from 1990 to 1994, is frequently organized through an intermediary such as a parent, family member, procurer, or teacher. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is defined by the United Nations as "the use of a child for sexual purposes in exchange for cash or in-kind favors between the customer, intermediary, or agent and others who profit from the trade in children for these purposes (parent, family member, procurer, teacher, and so on)" (UN, 2000, p.12). Exploitation is founded on an unequal power and economic relationship between the youngster and the adult.

Furthermore, the Declaration of the 1st World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm in 1996, describes commercial sexual exploitation of children as "all forms of sexual At the second World Congress in Yokohama, Japan, in 2001, the policies approved

in Stockholm were reaffirmed. As a result, the employment of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration, such as food, housing, drugs, or other tangibles or intangibles like approval or care, is referred to as child prostitution.

Child labor is also defined as work that deprives children of their youth, potential, and dignity, as well as being detrimental to their physical and mental development, under Ghana's Children's Act (1998). This definition encompasses all forms of child exploitation, including prostitution, because it robs adolescents of their youth, potential, and dignity while also harming their physical and mental development.

### **Child Prostitution**

Sex work has been around since the beginning of time (Begum, 2013). Patriarchal societies have existed throughout history. A patriarchal society is one that is dominated by men in terms of economic and political power. Women were viewed as property in patriarchal societies.

Males made the decision to have sex with women as a result, and demanded prostitution. Nonetheless, to satisfy this masculine yearning, many women turned to prostitution. That is due to the absence of other job choices and financial resources available to women in such a society. In addition, instability such as homelessness and poverty encouraged women to engage in prostitution, and others were forced into it and used as money-making sex instruments against their will.

In general, there is a perception of prostitution as sex labor and sexual enslavement. However, historical evidence reveals that prostitution is more than a sex-for-money business; it is tied to society disruption because it attracts

nefarious activities such as substance misuse, organized crime exploitation, violence such as rape and murder, and human trafficking. Furthermore, prostitution has resulted in the spread of venereal diseases throughout the country.

In order to determine the original difficulties of prostitution that prompted the state to regulate prostitution and whether the restrictions made a difference to the societal issues in history, it is necessary to evaluate the phenomena of prostitution in history. This study will analyze the importance of regulating prostitution and whether any legal adjustments should be made to investigate the situation (Begum, 2013). According to Ringdal (2004), sex work is the "world's oldest profession" because it involves a trade between sex and money. The phenomenon of sexually, as well as commercial sex actions such as soliciting, kerb-crawling, brothel keeping, and pimping, is an important public policy topic that is still continuing. In this study, a prostitute is defined as someone who arranges for sexual intercourse as return for wages or something of value. Despite the fact that it requires little expertise, prostitution is already considered as one of the most amazing money-making jobs. Prostitution, on the other hand, has been at the heart of a number of issues in various countries. Prostitution engages civilians in sexual slavery, increases the rate of human trafficking, causes public nuisance, exposes women and children to exploitation and violence, leads to social disorders such as drug use, spreads venereal diseases (HIV) across the country, and serves as a conduit for organized crime. As a result, numerous legal approaches to prostitution have been established by countries around the world in order to solve these challenges and maintain a safe and secure nation. In the United Kingdom and

some parts of Africa (Ghana), prostitution is controlled to attain this purpose by prohibiting on-street prostitution and related activities. However, the underlying concerns that accompany prostitution remain.

The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, which was adopted by representatives from employers, organizations, trade unions, and governments from the 175 ILO member states in 1999, was adopted at the International Labour Conference in Geneva by delegates from employers, organizations, trade unions, and governments. According to the ILO Convention No. 182, the following types of human labor are the worst:

*Slavery and associated acts like child trafficking, debt bondage, and forced or involuntary labor – including the recruitment of juveniles for use in armed conflict – are all forms that use or providing a child for prostitution or pornography. It also encompasses the use or offer of a youngster for unlawful activities like drug production and trafficking. Activity that, by its nature or conditions, is likely to have a negative impact on a child's health, safety, or morals.*

The unanimous approval of this agreement by member countries demonstrates the widespread abhorrence for its use, as well as a growing worldwide understanding that certain forms of child labor are fundamentally against children's basic human rights and must be removed as soon as possible. More than 140 countries have ratified the Convention by June 2003, which requires governments to take prompt and effective steps to prohibit and eliminate all kinds of child labor for all children under the age of 18. However, in reality, the impact of pragmatic steps beyond ratification is yet to be felt as more children are being pushed into prostitution every day.

A lot of definitions have been used to the concept of sex slavery in order to define it. United Nations defines it as "the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person" (Lim, 1998). The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child's Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography describes the practice as "the act of obtaining, procuring, or offering the services of a child, or inducing a child to perform sexual acts for any form of compensation or reward." Both underline that even if the youngster consents to prostitution, he or she is a victim of exploitation (Lim, 1998). The Worst Forms of Minor Labour Convention, 1999 (Convention No 182) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) defines it as "the use, procurement, or offering of a minor for prostitution" (C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 pg2).

According to the International Labour Office in Geneva, child prostitution and porn are two major kinds of child sexual exploitation, and they frequently overlap (Lim, 1998). The former can be used to refer to the entire CSEC. Other types of CSEC, such as commercial sexual exploitation through child marriage, domestic child labor, and child trafficking for sexual purposes, are not included (Narayan, 2005).

The phrase used to refer to this as a point of contention. According to the US Department of Justice, the term "choice" suggests that one has a choice, which is not the case (Child Exploitation and Obscenity, United States Department of Justice, 2013). According to anti-prostitution organizations, adolescents are not capable of making an informed decision to prostitute themselves. According to anti-prostitution organizations, such terms child

prostitution and child prostitute have negative connotations. Instead, they refer to them as "prostituted children" and "prostituted children." "Child sexual exploitation for profit (Rodriguez, 2011). Other groups refer to the youngsters as 'child sex workers,' implying that they aren't always children "victims who are merely passive" (Rodriguez, 2011).

The World Tourism Organization (WTO), a United Nations specialized agency, defines sex tourism when trips organized within the tourism sector, or outside the sector but utilizing its structures and networks, with the primary goal of establishing a commercial sexual relationship between tourists and locals at the destination (WTO, 1995).

The terms child/juvenile/teen prostitute or sex worker, as well as child sex trafficking victim, have been used to characterize youngsters used for prostitution in the commercial sex industry (Grant, 2005). These anomalies make it difficult to identify victims, stymie initiatives to recover victims from traffickers, stymie criminal investigations and convictions of traffickers, and stymie victim assistance delivery (Grant, 2005; Shared Hope International, 2008).

Minor victims of prostitution confront prejudice in their treatment as a result of the ambiguity in categorization, subject on the form of sexual exploitation to which they have been subjected (SHI, 2008). When a prostituted kid is highlighted in this section of state or municipal authorities, instead of being considered a case of child victimization, the crime is typically classified as a public nuisance offense by law enforcement, and the minor is arrested (Adelson, 2008; Albanese, 2007). According to some studies, child prostitution adds substantially to the gross national product of some developing nations, and



children's lives are sacrificed for the sake of short-term economic gain (Farr, 2005; Leth, 2005). Children's trafficking has been exposed as a source of corruption and bloodshed, providing tremendous financial profits for organized crime (Gomez, Hughes, & Raymond, 2010; Studnicka, 2010; Williams, 2008). Minors who are prostituted are the most marginalized and misunderstood victims of child abuse (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Vieth & Ragland, 2005; Williams & Frederick, 2009).

Because there are so many diverse perspectives from law, scientific, media, policy, and individual perspectives, it's difficult to define child prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation of kids (Kelly et al., 1995). Clients and pimps, adult sex workers, social workers, police officers, and others who work in intervention or prevention programs may all describe their actions differently than children who engage in commercial sexual activity. Commercial sexual exploitation has been incorporated in child labor laws on occasion in move the attention away from sex and toward exploitation, but all of these definitions have limitations (Kelly et al., 1995).

According to the TVPA of 2000, minors are everyone under the age of 18. The concept of a child in the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Convention on the Rights of the Child (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 1989) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182, which has been ratified by 169 member states of the International Labour Organization, are in agreement with this age demarcation of childhood (ILO, n.d.). According to the approved treaty, this definition of a child remains binding regardless of current national legislation. Countries may prohibit commercial sexual exploitation of anyone under the age

of 18 even if prostitution is legal. (International Labour Organization, n.d.) The TVPA of 2000 went on to describe economic sexual activity, stating that it includes "any sex act in which something of value is offered to or received by any person" (Sec. 103 p. 3).

The use of minors (under the age of 18) for the sexual gratification of adults has recently been classified as sex employment among youngsters. It is a broad phrase that encompasses child prostitution, the use of adolescents in pornographic acts and publications, the selling of children, and child trafficking for sexual purposes (Muntarhorn, 1996; Ireland, 1993; Kelly et al., 1995).

The exploitation is based on the child's and adult's unequal power and economic relationships. The youngster is taken advantage of because of his or her youth and sexuality. This exploitation is frequently, but not always, planned for profit by a third party. Children's sex work is not necessarily for financial gain; in other circumstances, a kid can trade his or her sexuality for other benefits such as shelter, food, or friendship. Therefore, it is not correct to explain teenager sexual exploitation as "the sexual use of children for economic purposes" and call it as "commercial sexual exploitation of children" (Kelly et al., 1995; Bakirci, 2004, 2005).

The sale of juveniles for prostitution, the production of pornography, stripping and nudity, and live sex performances are all examples of prostitution of youngsters. The trade of "anything of value" in exchange for the minor's sexual act is known as commercial sexual exploitation of children (TVPA, 2000, Sec. 103. p.3). A business transaction may entail transaction or recompense in the form of money, services, or goods (TVPA, 2000). Similarly, the ILO defines commercial sexual exploitation of children as "the use of girls



and boys in sexual activities for remuneration in cash or in kind," and defines forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children as "procuring or offering children for prostitution, (2) child sex tourism, and (3) the production, promotion, and distribution of sexual products for compensation in cash or in kind" (ILO, n.d.). Minors who engage in any commercial sex activity, such as sex for food, a gift, to pay off a family debt, or any other form of favor, are classified as child prostitutes.

In summary, it is obvious from the available literature that child prostitution is difficult to define. As could be seen, a number of definitions have been applied to child prostitution. According to Lim (1998), the UN defines it as "the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other consideration with that person or any other person". According to Lim, child prostitution and child pornography are defined when "the act of obtaining, procuring, or offering the services of a child, or inducing a child to perform sexual acts for any form of compensation or reward," as defined by the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1998). Both emphasize that the adolescent is a victim of exploitation even if he or she consents to prostitution.

Beyond the phenomenon or practice of child prostitution, which is not discrete, adult prostitution cannot be removed. Child prostitution appears to have expanded globally in tandem with the overall growth of the international sex business, particularly in relation to adult prostitution (Jeffreys, 2000). Child prostitution is on the rise all around the world, according to ILO studies. In the same places where adult prostitution is becoming more accepted and profitable, child prostitution is on the rise.

Through her research, Barry (1995) discovered that prostitution has been industrialized since the 1960s. Prostituted women and children have come under the influence of big business as prostitution has become legalized and institutionalized in the Western world. Women trafficking for prostitution has become much more organized on a global scale, with criminal and business networks earning handsomely from the activity (De Stoop, 1992).

Important criteria are found in the ILO Conventions on Minimum Age No. 138 and the Worst Forms of Child Labor No. 182. (2007). The International Labor Organization (ILO) considers sex industry to be a serious breach of child's human rights as well as a form of economic exploitation comparable to slavery and forced labor, implying that using girls, boys, and adolescents in the sex trade are committing a crime. Commercial sexual exploitation of children, according to the ILO, includes the following: the use of girls and boys in sexual activities for monetary or in-kind compensation (commonly known as child prostitution) in the streets or indoors, in places such as brothels, discotheques, massage parlors, bars, hotels, restaurants, and so on; the trafficking of males and females and adolescents for the sex trade; (public or private).

Similarly, the Stockholm Declaration defines commercial sexual exploitation of children as a form of coercion and violence against children that amounts to forced labor and a modern form of slavery, while the Palermo Protocol defined "exploitation" as "exploitation of others' prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slave labor, and other forms of slav labor, and other forms of slav labor, and other forms of slav labor, and other forms of slav labor, and other forms of slav labor, According to a recent UN report on violence against children, the exploitation of people under

the age of 18 in prostitution, child pornography, and related activities is also deemed violence.

There are rarely accurate statistics on child sexual exploitation because these crimes are typically clandestine, secret, and associated with deep sentiments of shame. The most common kind of human trafficking is sexual exploitation (79 percent). Sexual exploitation disproportionately affects women and girls. Surprisingly, women make up the majority of human traffickers in 30% of the countries that provided data on their gender. Out of the 12.3 million individuals who are victims of forced labor, 1.39 million people are involved in forced commercial sexual exploitation, with 40–50 percent of them being teenagers, according to a growing world estimate by the International Labour Organization. An estimated 1.8 million kids (mainly girls, but some males) participate in the multibillion-dollar commercial sex trade each year (UNICEF, 2009).

It is estimated that 35,000 Colombian teenagers work as prostitutes, with 5,000 to 10,000 of them working on the streets of Bogotá. Many of the adolescents who live on the streets in Colombia have been displaced by the violence. Many of them become prostitutes as a result of domestic problems or because their families push them to do so in order to get money. Prior and Williamson are two of the most well-known names in the (2009). Child prostitution has also been widespread in Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, China, and the Philippines, with recent estimates estimating that there are several as 800,000 child prostitutes in Thailand alone, with some youngsters starting as young as six years old Paolella (2020).

Around a third of Cambodia's prostitutes are under the age of 18. Similar to the United States, India's federal police believe that 1.2 million adolescents are involved in prostitution. According to a CBI statement, studies and surveys funded by the Ministry of Women and Child Development estimate that about 40% of all prostitutes in India are under the age of 25. (CNN, 2009).

Human trafficking affects 40% of Nigerian street children and hawkers, according to an ILO assessment (ILO/IPEC, 2000). Eight million Nigerian children are exposed to the most atrocious forms of child labor, according to a report published by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in March 2002. These kids work as domestic servants, beggars, street hawkers, agricultural laborers, and prostitutes, among other jobs. According to the International Labor Organization, between 200,000 and 300,000 kids are trafficked each year for forced labor and sexual exploitation in West and Central Africa (UNICEF, 2001).

All across the world, children are sexually assaulted and exploited (Ireland, 1993). According to statistics, sex slavery is on the rise in Africa. This is compounded by the prevalent belief that wanting to have sex with a virgin can cure HIV/AIDS or that having sex with a child will lessen the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or another sexually transmitted disease. At least 28,000 children in South Africa's urban regions are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, according to Molo Songololo, a well-known child rights NGO (Songololo, 2000). Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, and The Gambia, according to the ILO's 2001 Rapid Assessment Report, have a major child prostitution problem. These countries are progressively becoming known as hotspots for sex tourists abusing locals, particularly youngsters (ECPAT, 2002).

### **Vulnerability Factors: The push and pull factors**

Poverty, unemployment, and widespread illiteracy have all been identified as "push" factors in India's studies, causing youngsters to engage in prostitution. Tourism, sexual deviance, and materialism are among the "pull" causes, according to numerous research. However, because these studies are not based on systematic data, they have methodological flaws. As a result, the conclusions reached are open to debate (Rao, 1999).

#### **Factors relating from the family**

1. Poverty and social exclusion
2. Social exclusion and ethnic minorities
3. Fragmentation of family and community ties
4. Lack of parental figures or being a single parent
5. History of sexual abuse within family
6. Being a witness to or a victim of domestic violence
7. Infection with HIV/AIDS in the family
8. Family members who engage in prostitution

#### **Factors unique to children**

1. Lack of legal identification or paperwork, as well as citizenship
2. Homelessness and street children
3. School expulsion or exclusion
4. Pregnancy and motherhood in children
5. Consumerism and a low sense of self-worth
6. Abuse of drugs and alcohol in the past

### **Environment-related factors**

1. The existence of child labor and its practice
2. Work or reside in potentially dangerous locations, such as small brothels, pubs, inns, streets, or slums
3. Peer pressure that is negative
4. Community or national tolerance for prostitution
5. Availability of sex tourism

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

In order to protect children, states must: (1) recognize the child's right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that may be hazardous, interfere with the child's education, or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development; and (2) take all necessary national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to do.

According to the Protocol, the State must give special attention to adolescents who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation and take all reasonable means to ensure that victim survivors receive all essential assistance, including full social reintegration and physical and psychological recovery. According to the additional protocol on the sale of children, sex slavery, and child pornography to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, child prostitution is defined as the practice of a child hiring out his or her body for sexual activities in exchange for remuneration or any other form of consideration. The money or other consideration could be offered to the prostituted child or to someone else. Child prostitution is outlawed in the 158 countries that have signed the Optional Protocol (as of August 2012). "Using, procuring, or providing a kid for prostitution" is one of the "worst kinds of child



labor," according to the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Worst Kinds of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (Convention No 182). This agreement, which was established in 1999, requires countries that have ratified it to put an end to the practice immediately. Since 1919, it has had the highest rate of ratification in the ILO's history.

The Convention calls on approving member states to take immediate and effective measures to prohibit and eliminate the use, procurement, or offering of children for prostitution, pornographic production, or pornographic performances (Article 3[b]). Because of these explicit categories of exploitation, the Convention is the most potent tool available for defending children's rights to protection in the workplace.

#### **Article 3 of the ILO Convention 182**

1. Slavery in any form, including the selling and trafficking of minors, debt bonds, serfdom, and forced and compulsory labor, including the coerced and compelled enlistment of children for military warfare;
  2. Prostitution, pornographic production, or pornographic acts involving the use, acquisition, or offer of a child
  3. Work that, due to its nature or the circumstances in which it is conducted, is likely to threaten the health, safety, or morals of minors
- (pg2).

#### **The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda of Action (1996)**

This agreement, which was endorsed during the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, requires all meeting participants to develop a National Plan of Action to address the problem. A mechanism is in place to monitor the formulation and implementation of national plans.

Ghana has signed many international agreements, including the Lowest Age Convention (No. 138), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) 2001, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1990, demonstrating its dedication to children's well-being.

### **Demographics & Characteristics of Prostituted Children**

Child prostitutes come from a variety of backgrounds, including but not limited to broken homes and foster care. The bulk of child prostitutes, on the other hand, grew up in homes where parents and families were often unresponsive and prone to abandoning their children through various means (Clawson, 2009). A few of the parents are also abusive to their children. As a result, a child who has been rejected or abandoned by their parents or guardians may choose to run away from home voluntarily and live on the streets as a result of their living conditions. It has been discovered that fugitive, homeless, and sheltered adolescents are all at significant risk of being entrapped in sex trafficking (Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005).

Similarly, Allen (2010) including its National Center for Missing and Exploited Children presented research conducted by Estes and Weiner before Congress, estimating that 60 percent of the 250,000 children in the United States who are sexually exploited commercially each year are runaway, throwaway, or homeless children under the age of 18. According to Allen, figures derived from the Justice Department's National Incidence Study of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrown Away Children (NISMAART II) in the United States show that nearly 200,000 or more runaway or throwaway females under the age of 18 are forced into prostitution each year.



Other studies have revealed that while belonging to a given socioeconomic class does not appear to preclude a minor from being exploited in the illicit commercial sex industry, poverty has been identified as a risk factor in some studies (Clawson, 2009; Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005). Lower-income girls were identified as being more vulnerable to entrapment and less likely to be able to leave the exploitative environment (Lloyd, 2005). The collapse of crucial family bonds, particularly with their moms, was the main reason provided by girls for leaving (Peled & Cohavi, 2009; Clawson, 2009). The study's participants felt they had little choice and regarded fleeing as "living suicide" (Peled & Cohavi, 2009).

#### **Age and Sex of Child Prostitutes**

According to research, the falling generation of child pornography victims indicates that the age of prostituted youngsters will soon be lowered. Most researchers have found that if a child or teenager is victimized in one kind of sexual exploitation, they are more likely to be victimized in other ones (Klain, Davies & Hicks, 2001; Hughes, 2005; Taylor & Quayle, 2005). The typical age of entry into prostitution for females in the United States, according to research, is 12 to 14 years old (Boxill & Richardson, 2007; Clawson, 2009; Estes & Weiner, 2001, Gray, 2005; Williams & Frederick, 2009). Boys have been discovered to enter the workforce at an earlier age than girls (Curtis, Terry, Dank, Dombrowski, & Khan, 2008; Estes and Weiner, 2001). The youngest victim rescued in the most recent federal child prostitution raid was ten years old (Stone, 2009). In the United States, the mean lifespan of entry into prostitution is 11-14 years old, albeit this age is decreasing (Shared Hope International, 2007).

Reasons for increasing demand for child prostitutes are indicated by the following research findings: Sex offenders have increased the demand for "virgins" or prepubescent children due to a fear of contracting AIDS or other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) (Hanna, 2002; Hughes, 2005; Kreston, 2005). These child sex offenders assume that because these kids have not had prior sexual contact, they will not be infected with STIs (Farr, 2005; Fang, 2005). In truth, family members or sex traffickers have most definitely sexually abused youngsters in the past, including the youngest (Albanese, 2007). Younger minors are more likely to get and pass on STIs due to anal or vaginal tearing during intercourse, as well as having an immature genital tract with less effective natural defense against infections than adults (Farr, 2005; Leth, 2005; Kreston, 2001, 2005; Hughes, 2002). Furthermore, purchasers of consensual sex will frequently pay more for intercourse that does not include a condom, and kids lack the power or even understanding to demand protected or safe sex, increasing their risk of infection (Farley, 2005; Farr, 2005; Leth, 2005; Gomez, et al., 2010).

Aside from the folklore of a reduced probability of STI in pretty young minors, those who sexually abuse children believe in other myths or rationalizations to justify their child abuse of minors, such as the notions that tormented children are nothing more than chattel and are completely immune to the harassment perception, that younger children will not remember the abuse, and that children take pity on those who abuse them (Cooper, 2005a; Farr, 2005).

Girls are more likely than males to report exchanging intercourse for the benefit of a trafficker, pimp, boyfriend, or family in general, as well as child

prostitution (Clawson, 2009; Curtis et al., 2008; Estes & Weiner, 2005). However, including male and female homeless youth are at risk of sexual exploitation (Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005; Saewyc et al., 2008). Sexual exploitation of abandoned and homeless boys who identify as gay, bisexual, or transgender / transsexual is prevalent (Clawson, 2009; Curtis et al., 2008; Estes & Wiener, 2005).

According to the findings, youngsters who sell sex have lived lives that are damaged and chaotic. Children frequently describe sexual and physical abuse, poverty, rejection, drug addiction, and compulsion into prostitution by deceptive and dangerous adults. There is substantial evidence that pimps or "boyfriends" groom some young girls into prostitution. Some young individuals are introduced to prostitution by their peers, frequently as the final chapter in a long saga in which these young people have been subjected to collective and systematic abuse of their rights and dignity. The more complex a teenage individual's difficulties are, the more difficult it is for them to leave prostitution and recuperate. Young individuals become involved in this type of exchange or trade for a variety of reasons, including opportunism or the need to survive day to day. Because they were being sexually molested and raped by members of their own extended family, some of these children felt compelled to leave home (Shepherd, 2008).

Many people have dropped out of school because the educational system failed them at an early age. Only a small percentage of these young individuals go on to work in the field of sexual activity. Adult females who work full-time in prostitution are the most common. Children are not required to engage in sex in order to survive. Many of these children are seduced or pressured into

prostitution, or they are totally desperate. Abusers identify and target vulnerable children with poor self-esteem. The issue isn't new, but it's a well-kept secret: no one knows how many children are involved.

It's important to know the demographics or features of prostituted children in general while examining the variables that contribute to child prostitution. According to the data acquired, women are likely than males to report trading sex for the benefit of a trafficker, pimp, lover, or relative. Both male and female homeless youth are concerned about sexual exploitation. The above literatures give us a clear picture of certain contributing factors to child prostitution. Children who willingly left home or throwaways who have been rejected or abandoned by their parents or guardians and live on the streets as a result of their living situations. The literature demonstrated that fled, destitute, and abandoned kids are at a greater risk of being entrapped in sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

### **Economic Explanation for Child Prostitution**

Sexual commerce has evolved into a complex, multinational industry that is boosting growth in other sectors of the global economy, such as hotels, cable companies, and information technology (Lane, 2000).

Prostitution has become a source of income, a survival strategy, a prelude to new forms of vulnerability and subjugation, as well as a possibility for autonomy for women and girls (Adomako, 2007)

Prostitutes, like everyone else in society, want to make a good living by themselves and their family. Prostitution, according to Davidson (2001), is both a sexual and a financial organization that is heavily gendered. The majority of prostitutes are female, with a male clientele that is even larger. Women

prostitution is frequently regarded as a form of social and sexual deviance, and mainstream social scientists have long supported this view in their study.

Many countries regard women as sexual objects. Women's standing in each country has an impact on how others, particularly men, see them. Economic reasons for prostitution have received a lot of empirical attention from researchers. Taylor (2005) conducted a 14-month study in two Thai communities in the north. Her study focused on the relationship between parents' investment in their children and the familial responsibilities connected with child labor, prostitution, and human trafficking. In her study, Taylor found that “girls who have spent the majority of their childhood in school and their families expect high returns on their human-capital investment,” and that children who enter the workforce at a young age do not necessarily mean they are at risk of child trafficking or prostitution. At the same time, a high level of education and later entry into the labor force do not imply a low likelihood of child trafficking or prostitution.

Taylor (2005) discovered that mothers who are the primary breadwinners are usually unable to pay for their children's care. Sending the children to work in the city ensures that the family has a steady source of income. For families that are having financial troubles, this is a common alternative. Findings also imply that their parents would discontinue their children's educational achievement, sometimes with the children's cooperation, in the decision to quit attending school and go work in the city because of the opportunities available (Taylor, 2005: 414).

Furthermore, the sequence in which infants, particularly females, are born influences their likelihood of being coerced into prostitution for moral or financial reasons.

The Failure to maintain traditional sexual norms and sanctions on the youth plus emergence of cash economy has allowed the youth to generate income out of their own labour and this has enabled them to enjoy early sexual experience in a situation in which sexual pleasure has become a commodity to be bought and sold (Akyeampong, 1997).

### **Prostitution tourism**

There is a strong association between travel and sex in affluent as well as economically under developed countries (Oppermann, 1998; Clif & Carter, 2000). Tourist destinations for prostitution in poor countries provide tourists with both pricey sexual experiences and options for forms of sexual experiences that would not be available back home or in more prosperous countries. These wealth of opportunities social theories explain why people go into prostitution (Clif & Carter, 2000).

Most will argue that tourism is to blame for the global epidemic of sexual enslavement of girls, despite the fact that in many nations, local men exploit the youngsters in question Bakirci (2007). However, there is a growing body of evidence suggesting there is a direct link between girls' exploitation and women's low economic and social status. A girl kid is little more than a piece of property for many poor families, whose only redeeming quality is her ability to be sold. For many males, the primary concern is the cost of the purchase (Anania, 2003). Similarly, according to Bakirci (2007), individuals entrusted with the care of children whether they are teachers, clergy, police officers,



politicians, or parents – utilize their moral authority and prestige to sexually exploit children.

### **Scope and Nature of Child Prostitution**

The illegal nature of child prostitution, along with the difficulty in categorizing it, makes quantifying its prevalence challenging. The majority of published figures are based on studies of at-risk youth populations and may not be indicative of actual rates. In 1997, 3,733 youngsters in Australia were reported to be involved in commercial sexual activities (International Save the Children Alliance, 1999). In a study of 102 young homeless people aged 12 to 23, 35 percent admitted to engaging in sex for favours (Tschirren et al., 1996). A random sample of 20 clients on the DHS metropolitan high-risk schedule was found to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation in a report published by the Department of Human Services (DHS) of Victoria, Overview of High Risk Adolescents in Placement and Support Services (Protection and Care Branch, 1997). In a 1997 ECPAT investigation, up to 300 young individuals in metropolitan Melbourne were confirmed participants in sex work, with another 300 believed to be involved (Fitzgerald, 1997). These techniques of estimation, on the other hand, would only include those young individuals who are more visible and more likely to come to the attention of social officials (Marriot, 2001).

There is almost no hard data available in New Zealand (Saphira, 2001). Over 195 known incidents of child prostitution were discovered in a countrywide survey conducted by ECPAT (New Zealand), with 145 of them being under the age of 16. (Saphira, 2001). Throughout the country, both governmental and non-governmental social services have encounters with

young people who are known or suspected of being involved in sex work, but the data is anecdotal.

Another form of violence against women and children documented around the world is forced prostitution or other forms of commercial exploitation by male partners or parents (UNICEF, 1999 cited in Obeng, 2008). In order to sustain their children, impoverished families frequently lease out or sell their children, who are subsequently pushed into prostitution. Frequently, the young girl is assigned as a domestic worker, where she may be exploited physically and sexually by her employers. For example, significant numbers of youngsters from impoverished families are reportedly trafficked to the Middle East each year throughout West Africa, from Senegal to Nigeria, with many of them ending up as prostitutes (UNICEF, 1999 cited in Obeng, 2008). Child prostitution is on the rise in South Africa, and has become a more organized business. Prostitution has practically become a "traditional" source of income in some Nepalese hill areas. Husbands and relatives deceive or coerce women and girls into being trafficked to India for prostitution (UNICEF, 1999 cited in Obeng, 2008).

In Northern Ghana and portions of Togo, females are "donated" to priests, who force them to live as wives and submit sexually to shrine priests in exchange for family protection. Young women and girls (devadasis) are "donated" to serve a temple in southern India, where they typically end up prostituting themselves (UNICEF, 1999 cited in Obeng, 2008).

Arranged marriages, which are illegal under Federal Law, are cited as a key factor in the rise in child prostitution in urban and rural areas, as well as Addis Ababa. A 2005 study found that the majority of victims of commercial



sexual exploitation found on the streets of Addis Ababa had been married when they were under 15 years of age (SAACSEC). The Child Prostitution in Addis Ababa (CPAA) study, published in 2006, identified the variables that lead children away from their homes and into commercial sex labor. “Most of the child prostitutes came from regions to look for a job, due to conflicts at home, early marriage and divorce. Poverty, death of one or both parents, child trafficking, high repetition rates and drop out from school and lack of awareness about the consequence of being engaged in prostitution are key factors that push young girls to be involved in commercial sex work”. The study discovered that, in addition to planned marriage, which is a substantial reason, “the major reasons identified by the children themselves for engaging in commercial sex are: poverty (34%), dispute in family (35%), and death of mother and/or father, 40 percent joined prostitution either to support themselves or their parents. Quite a large number of girls (35%) have joined prostitution due to violence within the home. Thus, violence within the family is the main cause for children fleeing from home.”

The impact of prostitution on a child's long-term mental health can often result in persistent psychological difficulties; "emotional health implications of prostitution include extreme trauma, stress, depression, anxiety, self-medication through alcohol and drug misuse, and eating disorders" (Raymond, 2009).

According to Ecpats' Global Monitoring report state of action against commercial sexual exploitation of minors, orphans from HIV are a channel via which children join the prostitution net (Ethiopia AACSE, 2007). Ethiopia has one of the world's largest orphan populations: one-third of Ethiopian children have lost one or both parents, and the number of children orphaned solely as a

result of HIV/AIDS has climbed to almost 1.2 million. Despite the fact that these children are in grave danger of having to resort to commercial sex in order to survive, official aid is negligible.

In Kenya, CSEC is regularly carried out in private houses through defined periods of time. One of the key cities where the CSEC will take place is Mombasa, Kenya's second-largest city and a big port. When sailors and marines dock there, it's a well-known hangout for sexually exploiting youngsters. Child prostitution is prevalent in Kenya, notably in Nairobi and Mombasa. Girls who hawk or beg during the day and work as prostitutes at night have also been reported to be involved in prostitution. According to reports, girls working in the agricultural sector are sometimes coerced to perform sexual services in order to acquire plantation job. Prostitution is allegedly being practiced by Sudanese and Somali refugee youngsters in Kenya. A number of agencies have observed an upsurge in the prevalence of child sex tourism in the last five years, notably along coastal areas. When an American Navy aircraft carrier docks in Mombasa, girls are rumored to arrive from as far as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda. According to 2006 UNICEF research titled *The Extent and Effect of Sex Tourism and Sexual Exploitation of Children on the Kenyan Coast*, up to 30% of all 12 to 18-year-olds residing in the coastal areas of Malindi, Mombasa, Kilifi, and Diani engage in casual sex work. As a result, 10,000 to 15,000 women are expected to be sexually exploited in tourism in these locations on a seasonal or irregular basis.

Year-round, sex tourists sexually exploit another 2,000 to 3,000 children and boys in the same locations. According to some estimates, up to 30,000

youngsters aged 12 to 14 are sexually exploited in hotels and private houses. During the tourist season, local demand keeps child sexual exploitation alive. Beach boys, bartenders, waiters, and other locals who assist them in gaining access to guests are also required to deliver sex to youngsters involved in prostitution. These illegal activities are carried out by tour operators, hotels, and well-connected agents (ECPAT International, 2007).

According to New York Times reporter Josh Ruxin, "Mombasa's kid sex trade is a terrifying sight to behold. "But I found that it is exploding everywhere in this picturesque city, one of Africa's biggest tourist destinations." According to one estimate, up to 30,000 girls between the ages of 12 and 14 are currently being lured into hotels and private villas along Mombasa's north and south coasts, where they are sexually exploited in exchange for promises of wealth and trips abroad. Males hunting for young boys congregate in Malindi Old Town, where destitute youths of both sexes sell their bodies to visitors along the historic town's pristine, sandy beaches. Lamu Old Town, which was named a UNESCO World Heritage site five years ago, is now renowned as a destination where destitute youths of both sexes sell their bodies to visitors along the historic town's pristine, sandy beaches. The majority of cases of child prostitution go unreported, and when they are, authorities rarely intervene. They downplay Mombasa's reputation as a sex capital for fear of hurting the city's already shaky tourism industry. In addition, the laws are ineffective since they do not address child prostitution directly or provide for heavy consequences for offenders.

Child prostitution is one of the most important barriers to girls' education in Coast Province. According to Mrs. Connie Mogaka, the Coast Provincial

Director of Education (PDE), there has been a steady increase in school dropouts in the province as girls from low-income families fall prey to prostitution. Boys have not been spared, according to Mogaka, because they have dropped out of school after being enticed by wealthy female tourists who sunbathe on the beach. Mathias Ringa, speaking to The Standard immediately after presenting a charter and strategy plan for education services (The East Standard, 2007).

According to Bakirci (2007), there appears to be an equal link between the exploitation of girls and women's low economic and social position. For many poor families, a girl child is little more than a piece of property whose sole redeeming attribute is her ability to be sold. For many males, the primary concern is the cost of the purchase (Anania, 2003).

#### **Transition from street vender to sex worker**

Depending on the prevailing characteristics of street vending and the global demand for sexual services, transitioning from street vending to sex worker is prevalent among younger women with fewer skills and resources, for whom street vending is frequently the most readily sought source of money (Adomako, 1999).

#### **Forms of Prostitution**

##### *Institutional prostitution*

According to Akyeampong (1997), in traditional Ghanaian society, a system of institutional sex trafficking existed to service the requirements of unmarried men, who were mainly servants purchased by the political elite. These were public women who were pushed into joining a social organization aimed at easing the sexual demands that unmarried males face. Their sexuality

and earnings were controlled by the state. They were forced to accept every bachelor or fear retaliation. This made it impossible for women to accumulate riches.

Women who sold sex were able to accumulate assets over which they had sole control as a result of European intervention in Africa, increasing disenfranchisement of women from their traditional means of livelihood and support, and the introduction of cash economics, and many of these incomes were used to support the rural family (Adomako, 2007). Prostitution, in Adomako's opinion, could be split into three broad, albeit not necessarily distinct, categories:

- *The formal, organised sedentary women “seaters”*
- *Women who operate from upscale bars, night clubs and hotels patronized by wealthy men and expatriates*
- *Roamers, probably most visible group, who walk to the streets where ordinary workers live and work.*

The flexibility of this group, she believes, is evident when high-class women prowl the streets and several roamers work in bars and clubs during off-peak hours. Furthermore, the young females who go out to specific occasions such as dances, funerals, and music concerts to look for clients are more difficult to categorize. To augment their income, many people work part-time.

Sex labour is viewed as a means out of poverty, unemployment, depression, or a failed relationship. Individuals who work in the sex industry get financial freedom and the ability to care for dependents (Adomako, 2007).

## Child Protection and Welfare of Ghanaian Children

Between the ages of 12 and 20, many Ghanaian homeless youth die in the streets. They sleep in abandoned cars and in the parking lots of businesses. These young individuals have come from the countryside to cities and urban regions to fend for themselves due to a lack of parental support. Due to poverty or economic disruption, they were evicted from their homes (This reportedly pertains in most African countries such as Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Uganda and Kenya). Regrettably, some single mothers have even encouraged their teen daughters to scrounge on the streets for money. As a result, children are vulnerable to exploitation, as vulnerable young females have been forced to have sex and become homeless (Eyiah, 2003).

Despite the country's affluence, one among the population lives in poverty. Approximately 30% of children do not attend school, one-third of the rural population lacks access to safe drinking water, and just 11% of the population has basic sanitation (ODI & UNICEF, 2009, 17, 29; UNICEF, 2008b). Although only approximately 30% of AIDS cases are recorded, the prevalence of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) appears to be stable, partly due to stigma, but also due to reasons such as a lack of access to health-care facilities. Poverty, along with rapid urbanization and economic globalization, has spurred extensive rural-to-urban migration, resulting in frequent family separation and/or child migration (ODI & UNICEF, 2009, 17, 29; UNICEF, 2008b). As a result of these changes, traditional social safety systems for the poorest and most vulnerable are breaking down. As a result, child protection systems, which include laws, policies, regulations, and services,



are required across all socioeconomic sectors (ODI & UNICEF, 2009, 17, 29; UNICEF, 2008b).

Ghana has a Children's Act to protect children's rights, as well as other laws to prevent child labor, human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual violence. The Ministry of Manpower, Youth and Employment's Department of Social Welfare (DSW) and Child Labour Unit (CLU), the Ministry of Women and Children's Department of Children, and the Ghana Police Service's Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) are all relevant institutions to address child protection violations in Ghana. These units, on the other hand, are disjointed, lacking a clear division of labour and a defined coordinating mechanism. Human and financial resources are likewise limited, as indicated by the municipal level's lack of outreach on child safety issues. The Ministry of Women and Children, for example, receives less than 1% of the national budget and hence cannot afford local offices (ODI & UNICEF 2009, 30–31, 34).

Ghana, on the other hand, is promoting the importance of birth registration across the country, as well as coordinating programs to prevent child labor, promote universal education, and combat child trafficking. International organizations like as UNICEF and the International Labor Organization (ILO), as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), play critical roles in funding and delivering child protection programs. Among the leading international NGOs working in Ghana on a variety of child protection issues are Save the Children, Plan Foreign, and Amnesty International (ODI & UNICEF, 2009, 32–33). There are also a number of smaller, local non-



governmental organizations (NGOs) that are less well-known in the international news but have an equal impact, particularly on the ground.

### **Risk factors for victimization**

The few empirical research that have looked into the risk factors for sex trafficking victimization have discovered common characteristics in both globally and domestically trafficked kids' psychological histories and environmental settings (Clawson, 2009; Estes & Weiner, 2001, 2005; Williams & Frederick, 2009). Individual risk factors such as youth, insufficient education, restricted career possibilities, a lack of family support, a history of sexual abuse, and mental, emotional, or physical disability are among these commonalities (Clawson, 2009).

Other important sociocultural factors that increase the likelihood of adolescents becoming caught in prostitution include living in a city with high levels of crime and police corruption (Clawson, 2009). Estes and Wiener (2001, 2005) identified similar environmental characteristics as risk factors, such as the establishment of an adult prostitution market and the presence of large numbers of transient males (e.g. conventioners, tourists, truckers, or military personnel).

Apart from commercial sexual abuse of children, the 1996 Eastern and Southern African Regional Consultation on CSEC (a preparatory consultative meeting for the First World Congress against CSEC) noted that there were more alarming occurrences of non-commercial sexual abuse of children in the form of domestic violence and incest. They believed that domestic violence should be given significantly more attention as both a fundamental cause of commercial sexual exploitation and a far more serious problem in and of itself (UNICEF & ANNPCAN, 2001, p. 8). According to World Bank surveys in villages in Benin

and Burkina Faso (ILO/IPEC, 2002), other factors such as exposure to the outside world through the presence of televisions or soccer teams are major "push" factors.

### *Demand*

The demand factor is one of the most powerful driving forces for child prostitution, according to research and surveys. Basic economic and business principles, such as supply and demand, witness to this. The difference between demand and supply is that demand relates to how much of a product or service people desire, while supply refers to how much the market can offer. As a result, children become the supply in child prostitution, while men's desire for sex becomes the demand.

A study conducted by the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation in 2008 identified several reasons why demand is so high and which components contribute to facilitating this heightened crime against women and children, according to Karen Hoover's research on Determinants of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and the Urgent Need for a Global Cultural Shift. According to the interviews, about half of the boys (54%) bought sex for the first time on their own. Men who did not purchase sex alone were 36% more likely to purchase sex with a friend, and 17% more likely to purchase sex with a relative (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008).

Men's motivations for purchasing sex rather than finding a compatible and steady relationship varied. Regardless of their claimed reasons, 62 % of men asked had a constant companion, indeed a fiancée or a partner (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008). According to 46-48 percent of males, the main incentive for purchasing sex is to obtain a sexual favor that their typical partner was either

afraid to do or that the guy was embarrassed to ask for (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008).

Another 36% of males said they were interested in having sex without any commitment or strings attached (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008). Some men bought sex because they didn't think they'd get it otherwise. Sexual addictions, pornography, and societal pressures all play a role in the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. To compensate for their problems with sexual addictions, 83 percent of men exploited people in prostitution (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008). One respondent compared his friend's prostitution habits to the 90-day AA challenge, which involves 90 AA meetings or 90 prostitutes in 90 days. Several males suggested prostitution as a means to let off steam and reenact scenarios from pornography. Men also reported to participating in actions with prostitutes after being encouraged and sometimes coerced by others, such as coworkers or military personnel.

Similarly, some men see their first encounter with a prostitute as a rite of passage or an entry into manhood, rather than exploitation. Another motive, interestingly, was to have a way to express rage in a violent manner. "Something at your job gets you upset, you can't beat your wife, you can't beat your kids, so you go out and have sex to take your stress out," one man explained (Durchslag & Goswami, 2008, p. 15).

According to Jewell (2008), three layers interact to drive prostitution demand. A first level she refers to is made up of males and females who buy sex with a youngster to satisfy their own sexual desires. At the second level, pimps, brothel owners, corrupt officials, parents, relatives, and partners profit from the exploitation of trafficking victims. If these facilitators and control

mechanisms were not in place, the demand issue would quickly lose steam, as victims would be released from the commercial sexual market. The third and final level of culpability is placed on the culture that encourages prostitution and human trafficking. In this case, America contributes to continuous exploitation by sexualizing society and people while desensitizing the public to provocative, humiliating, and degrading imagery, often of female bodies (Jewell, 2008). As a result, if there was no demand for prostitution, prostitution of minors would cease to exist.

Samarasingh (2009) conducted research on the demand side of female sex trafficking for the School of International Service in 2009. This study reveals more reasons why men drive the demand side of sex trafficking. According to Samarasingh, men, an intermediary group (which includes recruiters, pimps, brothel owners, and those who act as a conduit among client and service provider), and institutions and organizations are all involved (2009). (For example, the military, government, and tourism). Each of these three organizations collaborates to assist the sector grow.

According to this report, upwards of half of all male clients are married (Jewell, 2008). Because these guys see women as commodities, they usually have no qualms about injuring them or behaving violently toward them. Males are also taught it is normal to want more sex than they can have in a monogamous relationship, hence it is appropriate to look for fulfillment outside of the home, according to culture. Because of the growing pressure to have as much sex as possible, men are looking for bodies that are more youthful, which leads to sex trafficking of kids. Males may also do it because they are looking for a thrill, to acquire sexual favors that they cannot have at home, or to establish

their masculinity Male tourists are encouraged to seek out prostitutes as part of new tourism packages, according to Samarasingh (2009).

Baker, a trained psychologist who opposes pornography and prostitution, adds her voice to the debate about demand and culture's influence. Males desire women who are sexually available at all times, she adds, so society accepts prostitution as natural and unavoidable. Raymond claims that demand isn't an issue when it comes to how culture pushes men to favor buying sex since, after all, "men will be men."

According to some sources, culture believes it is normal for males to act like small girls in order to satisfy their own selfish desires. The intermediary organizations, according to Samarasingh (2009), principally include pimps, brothel operators, and others who directly profit from sex trafficking. In exchange for economic and monetary benefits, these people contribute and provide supply for buyers. The majority of these profiteers are also involved in illicit activities like drug trafficking and smuggling. As a result, these criminals are able to pool their resources, resulting in a significant increase in their habits, businesses, and earnings. Hotels, internet service providers, and the tourism industry make up the second rung of intermediate groups. This sex trafficking intervention allows these groups to legally participate in the expanding economic crime and, as a result, receive significant profits in exchange for promoting trafficking (Jewell, 2008).

Finally, Samarasingh (2009) discusses the military's and state's influence and contributions. Despite the fact that sex trafficking exists, some countries, including Thailand and Japan, prefer to ignore the problem because the business generates cash and employs a diverse range of people

(Samarasingh, 2009). This move causes prostitution and sex trafficking demand to skyrocket on a daily basis. As previously indicated, research by many organizations and individuals reveals that demand is a major facilitator of domestic minor sex trafficking. The demand for wives and kids frequently outweighs the supply, allowing traffickers to exploit an increasing number of victims every day (Shared Hope International, 2007). Because pimps recognize that greater demand leads to increased profit, they understand that, unlike narcotics, victims' bodies can be sold and used repeatedly (Shelley, 2010). As a result, a pimp's capacity to resell raises his or her earnings significantly. A pimp can earn at least \$250,000 per year from the exploitation of one sex victim, according to Skinner's 2003 study in the Netherlands (Skinner, 2008).

### **Vulnerability**

Tells pimps and traffickers to obtain influence over victims of domestic or international commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents. Tanager's weak attitude makes it easy for the pimp to establish a partnership by offering and promising love, security, shelter, food, and friendship. The younger the child, the more vulnerable and easily available they will be to traffickers, as they are unable to make educated decisions and their immaturity prevents them from completely comprehending the repercussions of their actions in terms of short, medium, and long term consequences (Keatring, 1990). This paves the way for pimps to gain full control and brainwash their young victim by using basic developmental psychology knowledge to their advantage.

In their pursuit of financial independence, sex workers (including minors) become the originators of new forms of insecurity and submissiveness as they give in to client demands or are subjected to abuse, they open new forms of



abuse with their previous partners because their previous partners developed an important alternative and hope for safe space as an alternative to indignities to sex workers (Adomako, 2007)

Researchers and thinkers have amassed a large number of ideas and theories on child maturation, psychosocial and cognitive development, and the influence of one's parents and family on a child's development. Toddlers from young at two years old, according to studies, begin to learn about their environment and surroundings (Bandura, 1994). Learning and eventual shift to autonomy begin to reveal itself during the preadolescent ages of ten to twelve (Erikson, 1959). During this stage, youngsters initiate to develop abstract decision-making processes and are introduced to sexual topics (Piaget, 1972). Between the ages of 13 and 15, abstract cognitive abilities continue to grow (Piaget & Inhelder, 1969; Piaget, 1972). Children are better at making decisions, however they are prone to acting on urges. Furthermore, when a youngster approaches puberty, sexuality continues to play a larger part in his or her general development, including knowledge seeking and sources (Erikson, 1959).

A brief literature investigation of the reasons that contributed to early sexual activity and pregnancy found that there has been surprisingly little empirical research on the effects of growing up in a society saturated with frequently dysfunctional sexual behavior models (Moore et al., 1995). Human traffickers have discovered that they may prey more easily on young girls as a result of these facts regarding child development and age. As a result, children's greatest vulnerability is their age, because they're still ignorant of the world (Smith, Vardaman & Snow, 2009, p. 30).



After maturity, gender might be the next susceptibility of trafficking victims, because gender differences allow the pimp to develop a one-of-a-kind scheme to seduce the victim into his care. According to Karen Hoover, the FBI believes over 100,000 children and teenagers are sexually exploited in the United States each year, with young girls constituting the majority (ABC News, 2006). In comparison, women account for 80 percent of the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 persons trafficked internationally each year, with children accounting for up to half of them (Jewell, 2008). Because of the tremendous focus on young girls, pimps are able to pose themselves as partners and acquire the confidence and loyalty of these young victims.

Similarly, the longer the pimp allows and creates this bogus love relationship, the more effectively he can psychologically brainwash and manipulate his victim (Smith, Vardaman, & Snow, 2009). Pimps are becoming more aware of what their young female victims desire in terms of affection, love, attention, and financial gain. They become straightforward to meet once they have determined the girl's wants and needs.

As previously indicated, the upbringing of the abused children is another factor that contributes to vulnerability. A large number of minors are classified as runaways or throwaways after fleeing or being kicked out of their homes. According to Hoover (1995), 1.5 million runaway and homeless youths live on the streets in America, according to a study conducted by the Invisible Youth Network. According to the 1995 Family and Adolescents Services Bureau Report, 35% of these youth used drugs, 26 % attempted suicide, and 47% were evicted from their homes.

To make matters worse, the majority of runaway and homeless adolescents have experienced abuse in the family, typically beginning at a young age. This abuse causes the youth to flee in order to avoid the agony and victimization. Unfortunately, running away commonly leads to the youngster, usually between the ages of 12 and 14, becoming involved in prostitution or survival sex as a means of providing for his or her basic requirements; therefore, another issue that pimps are aware of and exploit (Smith et al., 2009).

Various juvenile detention facilities' statistics and research consistently show that commercially exploited adolescents had previously endured sexual or physical abuse before being sold into prostitution and trafficking. According to Kaeon Hover of the Letot Center in Dallas, Texas, 93 to 95 percent of the commercially exploited children they worked with had previously been harmed. Similarly, West Care Nevada discovered that 71% of domestic trafficking victims had been sexually abused as children. The figure is in line with Canadian study on international trafficking, which found that 80 percent of sexually exploited youngsters had been abused (Smith et al., 2009).

Other circumstances that motivate these youth to leave home in pursuit of a better environment are provided by Generate Hope, a safe house in San Diego (2011), Texas. Previous child maltreatment, spousal violence, low self-esteem, or an unstable home situation were all reasons given. Background variables, on the other hand, frequently return to earlier misuse.

Because child prostitution is illegal, as well as difficult to define, quantifying its prevalence is challenging not only in other areas of the world, but also in Ghana. Thus, the bigger figures available are generated from studies with groups of at-risk young people, and may not be at all indicative of actual

rates, as can be shown from the numerous literatures above. Destitute families that are unable to support their children frequently lease out or sell their children, who are subsequently forced into prostitution, according to the literature. The young girl is frequently assigned as a domestic servant, where she may be sexually and physically exploited by her employers. Parental attitudes, vulnerability variables (age, sex, background), and demand and supply factors may all play a role in the determinants of child prostitution in Ghana's Western Region.

### **Infiltration of Western Culture**

There seem to be infiltration of western culture and amazing sum of voluptuous content into their everyday lives through both the print and electronic media in Ghana which tends to have negative impact on our values and norms which promotes chastity, decency and discipline as authorities are unable to implement policies that will regulate and restrict sexual content in the media through music, videos, internet and novels (McLeod, 2011). Advertising and music industries are taking advantage of the dangerous notion that sex sells to exploit the most vulnerable in the society which are mostly women and children. As a result, there is a greater understanding and tolerance of imposed sexual content and information, even when certain portions of the information may violate personal convictions or the culture's health and well-being (McLeod, 2011).

The social learning theory of Bandura (1977), which maintains that behavior is learnt from the environment through observational learning, explains the damaging impact of unrestricted sexual content in our media on our children. Children witness people in their environment behaving in a variety of

ways. This is demonstrated in the well-known bobo doll experiment (Bandura, 1961). He went on to say that people who are observed are referred to as models. Children are surrounded by numerous influence models in society, including their parents, characters on children's television, peers from their peer group, and work colleagues.

These individuals act as models for both masculine and feminine behavior that can be observed and emulated. Children pay attention to certain of these persons (models) and encode their behavior, according to Bandura. They may emulate (i.e. replicate) the behavior they have watched at a later period. They are free to do so regardless of whether or not the behaviour is "gender suitable." A variety of characteristics, according to Bandura and Ross (2006), increase the possibility that a child would repeat the conduct that society thinks appropriate for its sex.

To begin with, the youngster is more inclined to pay attention to and copy individuals who appear to be similar to her or him. As a result, it is more likely to emulate the behaviour of persons of the same sex. Second, the individuals in the child's environment will either reinforce or punish the behaviour the child is imitating. If a youngster imitates a model's behaviour and receives positive reinforcement, the child is more likely to repeat the behaviour. The desired behaviour has been rewarded. External or internal reinforcement can be positive or negative, but the key thing is that it usually results in a change in a person's behaviour (McLeod, 2011). Because it seeks approval, the adolescent will act in a way that it feels will gain it. If the reinforcement supplied externally does not fit an individual's needs, positive (or negative) reinforcement will have little influence. Finally, when considering whether or

not to mimic someone's actions, the child will consider what occurs to other people. This is referred to as vicarious reinforcement by Bandura.

This has to do with commitment to particular brands that have traits that are regarded as beneficial. Children will identify with a variety of role models. These people could be people from their local environment, such as parents or older siblings, or they could be fictional characters or people from the media. The desire to identify with a particular model stems from the fact that they possess a quality that the individual want to acquire.

Identification occurs when you identify with another person (the model) and entails taking on (or adopting) the individual's observed behaviour, values, beliefs, and attitudes.

Identification differs from imitation in that it may entail a variety of behaviors, whereas imitation usually entails copying a time resulting (McLeod, 2011).

### **Migration**

Cameroon's child labor is highly influenced by both internal and external migration. Rural-urban migration is a significant issue (UNICEF facts on children, May 2007). People who migrate to cities tend to return to their villages and recruit poor people's children to work for them in the cities. The child is initially excited to travel to town, although having no idea what he or she will be doing. While in the city, he or she is subjected to forced labour, and female minors are occasionally coerced into prostitution. Because child labour is inexpensive, people frequently exploit children in various economic activities. As a result, youngsters work on plantations, factories, and farms as a cheap and docile workforce (UNICEF facts on children, May 2007).

## Internet

Although sex is still prohibited in schools, churches, mosques, and families, the media and western culture have taken over the matter and put illegitimate sex in a positive light, making it appear like a normal and acceptable activity for people of all ages.

Domestic minor sex trafficking is likely to increase as a result of this. The internet is only one example of a media that allows millions of users to view photos and content at the touch of a mouse every day. Domestic minor sex trafficking is aided by websites dedicated solely to the purpose of buying and selling human bodies for the pleasure of those willing to pay. According to an international research organization, one-third of internet users visit a pornographic website, and as recently as 1997, pornographic websites accounted for nearly all paid material on the internet (Bernstein, 2001).

The enablement of prostitution and trafficking continues with the vast amount of escort and erotic service websites available to any viewer in any part of the world. For vacations in any country, one can access the World Sex Guide (Jewell, 2008; Hoover, 2011). For city specific pleasures, one just has to conduct a quick online search and undoubtedly, they will find something to their liking. To the proof of the immensity of online searches for these types of services, Hoover (2011) looked at eight major American cities and discovered that Craigslist's "erotic services" had 265,000 visitors each city in February. Surprisingly, the only other attraction that attracted so many people was "cars for sale." Surprisingly, the only other attraction that attracted so many people was "cars for sale."



## **Pornography and Prostitution**

Prostitution, human trafficking, and pornography all have a link that needs to be addressed (Hoover, 2011). The International Oral History Project, for example, conducted research on the link between human trafficking and pornography, and the findings revealed that the two evils have a clear and significant relationship (Peters, 2008).

Prostitute youth and women, for example, frequently recount incidents in which their pimps compelled them to view pornography as a form of education or in which a customer requested that they re-enact a scene. In the whisper Oral History Project, 80 percent of prostitution survivors described customers showing them pornography as a means of exhibiting actions. Similarly, Raymond discovered that pornography was required viewing for half of all women on the planet (Raymond, Hughes, & Gomez, 2001).

The most frequent consumers of pornography were also the most frequent buyers of prostitutes, according to evidence (Peters, 2008). Another interesting aspect of this moral rot is the use of pornography as a blackmail tool, with pimps photographing the girls and threatening to send the photos to the girls' families (Raymond et al., 2009). As a result, the pimps' grip over their young victims is strengthened by their fear of their families viewing the images.

These females are kept as slaves for two years because they are afraid of their families finding out (Celizic, 2009). As a result, pimps recognize that pornography may help them grow their company, and they use it to their advantage, whether through extortion, education, or other means. Pornography infiltrates and affects the lives of young people, and those who buy it profit handsomely. Contrary to popular assumption, data shows that 72 percent of

males and 28 percent of females watch pornography in some way (Family Safe Media, 2007). One in every seven teenagers receives sexual solicitations, and 28,258 online users see pornography every second (Family Safe Media, 2007 cited in Hoover, 2011). After reflecting on the money Americans spend watching and purchasing pornography, Mark Driscoll, pastor of Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington, dubbed pornography America's favorite pastime in 2008. (Hoover, 2011). Pornography accounts for 2.6 to 3.9 billion dollars in annual spending on videos, websites, magazines, and other forms of media (Ackman, 2001).

According to other sources, the annual sex expenditures could be as high as \$10 billion (Leung, 2004). These figures imply that the majority of residents watch pornography, either passively or actively, and may or may not be aware of the dangers that this brings, such as encouraging people to consider women as objects to be used for sexual purposes without their will. Females' attitudes are similar to those of rape victims and sex objects. Stankiewicz and Rosselli are two authors that have collaborated on a book (2008).

Pornography greatly influences the sexual behaviour of children and youth hence promote child prostitution. Aside from causing deviant behavior in adults, pornography has been linked to mental distress in adolescence and youth, as well as aversion to marriage and having a family. These people are more likely to have had sex earlier in life and have a wounded worldview, feeling that deviant sex behaviour are normal and acceptable (Focus on the Family Issue Analysts, 2008). As a result, research consistently finds a harmful (intended and unexpected) impact on both adults and children.

## Visual Entertainment

People watch TV, watch movies, and watch videos for amusement. The entertainment sector benefits greatly from this enjoyment. Clearly, the majority of the content is not wholesome, providing pictures to children and youth who should not be viewing or having access to such content.

Various polls and studies have indicated that sexual material in visual entertainment has a significant impact on viewers. Sixty-four percent of all television shows in a survey from 2001-2002 had some type of sexual content. According to data collated from national polls, 77 percent of parents believe there is too much sex before marriage on television (Hoover, 2011). 62 percent of parents believe that television shows and movies encourage children to engage in sexual activity when they are "too young," according to a second poll (Hoover, 2011). Statistically, 46% of American high school students have had sex, according to studies performed by the Parents Television Council. Although not every child who sees a sex-filled television show will opt to imitate the scenes, visual entertainment clearly has an impact on many children's and adolescent's daily decisions (Bandura, 1994).

## Music

As more music alludes to women's degradation, pimps' and gangs' exclusivity, and acceptance of sex suicide, drugs, and other deviant activities that are socially and ethically incorrect, the current state of music is deteriorating (Farrow, 2005). Despite their claims that they are merely listening to the rhythm, the words run wild, embedding thoughts, images, and ideas in a generation of sensitive individuals (versus the words). 50 Cent, a well-known rapper, creates profane and obscene songs that soon become popular among

teenagers. The lyrics to his song "Peep Show" are as follows: "On your mark, get set, girl, and here we go, racing off to see your peep show, it turns me on to see you on the floor, keep breaking it down" (Hoover, 2011). This style of use of vulgar worlds in musical lyrics as well as using girls in sexually suggestive scenes in musical videos is prominent in current both local and international videos. Ghanaian musicians both hip life and high life also tend to imitate their western counter part in attempt to conform to current trends as well as increase sales while neglecting our norms and values that prohibits the use of vulgar language and public display of sex and erotic scenes. By delivering music directly into the ears and minds of thousands of youngsters around the world, the melody industry is obviously lobbying for their goal, which includes drugs, money, and sexuality.

### **Process of Initiation into Child Prostitution**

Many studies have found that peers have a significant influence on the process of entry into commercial sexual exploitation (Curtis et al., 2008; Tyler & Beal, 2010; Williams & Frederick, 2009). Homeless youth frequently band together to form a social network, a kind of substitute family (Baron, 2003; Baron, Kennedy & Forde, 2001; Farrow, 2005; Hagan & McCarthy, 1997). Minors are introduced to methods of living on the streets by more experienced runaways through peer connections (Curtis et al., 2008; Williams, & Frederick, 2009). In several research, homeless adolescent social networks were found to have a protective impact, with those who were not part of the network engaging in more dangerous behaviors (Ennett, Bailey, & Federman, 1999). Further research has revealed that prostituted and psychologically conditioned minors may assist their traffickers in recruiting new recruits from among sheltered

youth when they return or are returned to unsecured locations, such as group homes or runaway shelters, by law enforcement or child protective services (Clawson & Grace, 2007).

Furthermore, child labour is common in rural areas due to the horrible life conditions and large family numbers. When parents are unable to attend school, the child's only option is to work at home or be sent to town to work and pay the family back. Sexual exploitation is by far the most common form of human trafficking (79 percent), followed by forced labour (18 per cent). (From the Global Human Trafficking Report) (2008, p. 6)

### **Consequences of Victimization in Child Prostitution**

Physical damage, psychological trauma, and social disabilities are the three types of long-term consequences that minors face as a result of being sexually exploited. STIs, undesired and high-risk teen pregnancy, physical injuries from beatings and rapes, malnutrition, and drug-related problems are all common physiological disorders (Vieth & Ragland, 2005; Clawson, Salomon, & Grace, 2008; Cooper, 2005c; Estes, & Wiener, 2005; Fadel, 2005; Leth, 2005).

Depression, anxiety, dissociative disorders, substance misuse, suicide ideations and gestures, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are among the psychological problems that are simultaneously recognized (Cooper, 2005c; Fadel, 2005; Layden & Smith, 2005; Leth, 2005; Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Vieth & Ragland, 2005). Low self-esteem, guilt, and shame are common emotional repercussions stated (Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Cooper, 2005; Fadel, 2005; Leth, 2005; Vieth & Ragland, 2005). These psychological

disorders maybe independent of the other or one may lead to another or one may make the victim susceptible to the other if not addressed.

Interpersonal interaction and behavioral issues, a lack of life skills, and marginalization are among the social impairments encountered by minors involved in prostitution (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Cooper, 2005c; Estes, & Wiener, 2005; Fadel, 2005, Layden & Smith, 2005; Leth, 2005; Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010; Vieth & Ragland, 2005).

### **Maltreatment of children involve in prostitution**

Some youngsters involved in prostitution have a history of abuse in their families of origin (Bell & Todd, 1998; Conti & Carson, 2005; Cates, 1989; Nadon, Koverola, & Schludermann, 1998).

Children who work as prostitutes are regularly exploited and mistreated by pimps, clients, and other adults with whom they interact, and they work in hazardous conditions that can be harmful to their health. Pimps, clients, and other prostitutes all too frequently victimize prostitutes (Klain, 1999; Miller & Schwartz, 1995; Silbert, 1982).

### **Health Concerns**

Youth who have frequent, repeated sexual intercourse with outsiders are more likely to get HIV, other STDs, and become pregnant. Other health problems, including as sickness and malnutrition, afflict the population, which is aggravated by the lack of access to adequate health care (Farrow, Deisher, Brown, Kulig, & Kipke, 1992; Klain, 1999; Yates, Mackenzie, Pennbridge, & Swofford, 1991). Misuse, as well as the health and legal implications that accompany it, is a big problem (Farrow et al., 1992; Klain, 1999; Silbert, Pines, & Lynch, 1982; Yates et al., 1991). Finally, youth engaging in prostitution



suffer from a variety of psychiatric illnesses, including depression and suicidality (Farrow et al., 1992; Klain, 1999; Yates et al., 1991).

### **Special care for victims**

The psychological effects of commercial sexual exploitation on kids are severe, demanding expert assistance through a holistic, integrated care strategy to assure the victims' full rehabilitation and reintegration. Removing children from abusive situations, returning them to their family, and believing that everything is well is insufficient. The kids will need continuing professional help to deconstruct the awful trauma they've experienced in order to re-establish their identities as children and move forward with a clear life plan. The youngsters require daily monitoring by trained caretakers, as well as an intervention strategy tailored to each child's individual needs.

However, the legislative definitions examined in this research, particularly those pertaining to the worst kinds of child labour, contain some inconsistencies and, in essence, make the causal link between child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour, such as sexual exploitation of minors, unclear.

The above literatures have a positive relation to the present research. The media, as could be seen, has a very influential effect on the behaviour of children. Therefore, in investigating the determinants of child prostitution, the media cannot be isolated. As is well known, attitude is acquired through observational learning from the environment (social learning theory proposed by Albert Bandura 1977). Teenagers notice people in their environment behaving in diverse ways and use them as role models. It is also true that children in every culture are surrounded by many influence models, such as

their parents, characters on children's television, peers, and teachers at school. These models present children with examples of male and feminine behaviour to examine and emulate. Prostitution is also likely to be a deterrent on such a path.

### **Strategies to Combat Child Prostitution**

A child's participation in sexual behaviours is harmful to his or her survival and development. Families must be assisted when they are in need, according to worldwide society, in order to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. It is thought to be the most important preventive intervention. The state also has a social responsibility to provide entitlement services for child sexual abuse prevention, detection, and reporting. On the other side, international organizations have devised strategies to combat child prostitution.

Projects to combat commercial sexual exploitation in children (CSEC) must work within the broad framework of the International Labour Organization's Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182. For an abused child, CSE is not always the best option. Designers should pay attention to all forms of child laborers, such as domestic workers, child street vendors, and street children, and analyze whether they are vulnerable to CSE using vulnerability criteria.

Raising public awareness to reduce public tolerance and demand for CSEC; a legislative change campaign to impose stricter sanctions on exploiters; improved victim-survivor protection and law enforcement methods; and strengthening law enforcement bodies' capacity, as well as cooperation and dialogue among institutions, are among the national-level strategies. The main purpose of national-level programs is to establish an environment that promotes

community and local activities. By establishing or upgrading national legislation and policies for greater child and adolescent protection and harsher penalties for offenders.

Outreach, withdrawal, rehabilitation, reintegration, and family reunification in at-risk communities are examples of community-level strategies; prevention in CSEC-affected areas through collaboration with concerned sectors and public awareness campaigns; and direct assistance to victims/survivors in CSEC-affected communities through outreach, withdrawal, rehabilitation, reintegration, and family reunification are examples of community-level strategies. Interventions should follow two basic steps in terms of victim assistance:

1. Emergency aid, which may involve removing the child from a brothel or the street, giving health care and treatment, and placing the child in a safe environment, such as the family home (first option), a foster home or foster family (second option), or a shelter (last option); and
2. Medium-term help that necessitates the development of intervention plans that adhere to a care-giving organization's established practice while also considering the child's best interests.

### **Strategies to Combat Child Prostitution and Sustainability**

The design of anti-CSEC methods and project implementation in the IPEC environment should, in many situations, be of a pilot-testing or demonstration type, with the ultimate goal of identifying a proven model that can be duplicated in a larger setting and taken over by national institutions. Throughout the demonstration phase, these national partners' capacity should

be improved so that they can continue to provide long-term care for populations at risk and victims of CSEC.

DEPDC (2008) claims that learning is the answer; DEPDC uses prevention as a gateway and prevention strategies such as education, protection, and development. These factors are seen to be the most effective way of keeping children and adults out of prostitution and other forms of sex labor. It is widely agreed that preventing a child from becoming a prostitute is preferable to focusing all efforts on rehabilitation. Prevention, they believe, is more cost-effective and has a greater success rate for each child involved than rehabilitating a child who has already lived a life as a prostitute. Mitigation is accomplished through training, which includes seminars, research, workshops, and large-scale public awareness campaigns on human trafficking and child rights at the community and local government levels.

The 2012 Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Conference outlines the following detailed characteristics to sex tourism: deterring prostitutes and clients by enforcing laws prohibiting soliciting, patronizing, and loitering for the purposes of prostitution, forming a highly visible police presence, relaxing the regulation of indoor prostitution venues, and recruiting local residents to provide prostitution services. In addition, targeting prostitution by helping restraining orders/civil injunctions against habitual prostitutes, helping prostitutes to quit and imposing curfews on prostitution is a way of ending the practice. Closing streets and lanes, diverting traffic, limiting parking, improving surveillance with better lighting and CCTV, and securing abandoned buildings can all help to transform the surroundings of prostitutes (Bullock & Tilley, 2012).

For example, India launched a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual exploitation of women and children, cross-border trafficking, and victim recovery and rehabilitation in December 2008. Three pilot initiatives were launched by India's Ministry of Women and Child Development. They were battling traditional sanctioned trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, source community trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, and destination area trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation. Because of the favorable reaction to the pilot project's implementation, the 11th Plan decided to consolidate all three efforts into one comprehensive program (Santhya, Jejeebhoy, & Basu, 2014).

As a result, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched "Ujjawala," a new Central Scheme for the Prevention of Trafficking and the Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Victims, last year. The scheme had five components: prevention, which included the formation of community vigilance groups/adolescent groups, awareness and sensitisation of important functionaries such as police and community leaders, and holding workshops, among other things; rescue, which included the safe withdrawal of the victim from the place of exploitation; and rehabilitation, which included providing safe shelter for victims with basic inputs of food, clothing, necessities, integration, which involves reintegrating the victim into her family / community (if she so wishes) and the associated expenditures, as well as repatriation, to assist cross-border victims in safely returning to their home country. A research called "Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child Victims of Commercial Sexual

Exploitation" was conducted by the Ministry in conjunction with UNICEF (Santhya, Jejeebhoy, & Basu, 2014, UNODC, 2007).

The goal of the research was to gain a better knowledge of current rescue and rehabilitation processes and to take proactive actions to remedy them. The Ministry also backed a research on 'Girls and Women in Prostitution in India,' which was carried out by Gram Niyojan Kendra, a Ghaziabad-based NGO. The purpose of the study was to evaluate and analyze the situation of commercial sex workers in the country (Stallworth et al., 2004).

According to Rustam (2004), the annual Smuggling in Peoples Study issued by the US Department of State highlights that the Cambodian government recognizes trafficking as a major issue. It also states that, despite major resource restrictions, the government is making significant efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

According to him, the Cambodian government, particularly the Ministries of Female ones and Veterans' Affairs (MOWVA) and Social Affairs, Labour, Vocational Training and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSALVY), collaborates of foreign and domestic NGOs and international organizations to address the issue of human trafficking (IOs). The following is an analysis of the steps implemented by various agencies to help juvenile victims of prostitution trafficking. They are divided into four categories: prevention, protection, recovery and rehabilitation, and reintegration. However, because his research concentrated on kid victims, he did not mention prevention in his findings (Rustam, 2004).

The construction of a legal framework and the implementation of applicable laws and mechanisms are crucial in the defense of young people who



have been victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Compared to its neighbouring country, Thailand, Cambodia is weak in terms of its legal framework on sex trafficking, and even weaker in terms of implementation. Cambodia lacks a comprehensive anti-trafficking law, and the one that exists does not include any safeguards for victims against charges brought under the country's immigration laws. It has not ratified the International Labour Organization Convention No. 182/ 1999 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, as well as the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as of July 16, 2004, and the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention (Rustam, 2004).

Cambodia has ratified or signed several international instruments addressing child trafficking and prostitution, including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on November 14, 1992, and its Optional Protocol on November 11, 2001; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on November 14, 1992, or its Optional Protocol on November 11, 2001. 2004 (Rustam).

In addition to ratification, Cambodia's Royal Government has enacted legislation against human trafficking and prostitution, including the 1993 Cambodian Constitution and the 1996 Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Human Persons. Furthermore, the country has its own related units. The Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC), an inter-ministerial body, was formed to handle issues relating to children,

including child labor. The CNCC issued its first Five-Year Plan to Combat Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in July 1999. The Anti-Trafficking Office, which is part of the Ministry of Women's and Veteran's Affairs, was established in September 2000 to raise awareness about human trafficking and sexual exploitation among government employees. Its mission is to safeguard victims and determine if laws are being applied effectively (Rustam, 2004).

However, implementation of laws is a delicate matter in Cambodia where corruption is rampant. The legal system is broken. According to many studies, Cambodian law enforcement officers do not implement existing laws to safeguard children, but instead abuse the laws themselves. In numerous provinces, police officers and soldiers own brothels or guard them with their troops (UNESCAP, 2000; Rustam, 2004).

### **Recovery**

The number of kids who have already been kidnapped and sexually exploited have been exposed to appalling working and living conditions, which have affected their physical and mental health. Rapes, beatings, and tortures were perpetrated against the children, resulting in long-term physical and psychological traumas, as well as sexually transmitted illnesses (STIs) such as HIV (Rustam, 2004).

For one reason or another, the slavery-like life comes to an end. Some child victims manage to escape from the sex establishments on their own, while the others are rescued by NGO workers and the police. Still others are released by the mama-san because they are too ill and no longer making profits, or because their debts are already paid off. With whatever means of escape, the children bring with them all the results of the suffering (Rustam, 2004).

The Five-Year National Plan developed by CNCC in consultation with the NGOs and IOs outlines the goal of recovery program as “to promote and achieve the best possible recovery of child victims of sexual exploitation, using a non-punitive approach to victims in keeping with the rights of the child, and to develop wide-ranging, relevant and effective skills training programmes for the child victims.” However, NGOs and IOs are in charge of the majority of efforts aimed at recovering and restoring juvenile victims of sexual commercial trafficking (Rustam, 2004).

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Vocational Training, and Youth Rehabilitation Labor manages two temporary shelters for rescued victims until reintegration (MOSALVY). For long-term sheltering, the victims are referred to the ones managed by NGOs and IOs. *Agir Pour les Femmes en Situation Precaire* (AFESIP) runs five shelters with different purposes and target groups: three in and around Phnom Penh, one in Kampong Cham, and another in Siem Reap. Drop-in shelters in Phnom Penh, Banteay Meanchey, and Siem Reap, as well as longer-term accommodations in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap, are available through the Cambodian Woman Crisis Centre (CWCC). The Cambodian Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CCPCR) has locations in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville, and SvayRieng, while World Vision has a shelter in Kandal. Many other Cambodian provinces lack recovery and rehabilitation centers for kid victims. In truth, trafficking and prostitution afflict all provinces, but on a different scale (Rustam, 2004).

Altogether, the support services available in the shelters include medical treatment, psycho-social counselling, skills and vocational training (with agriculture, farming, weaving and sewing as the most popular), basic education

(literacy and innumeracy), and job placement. There are three modes of access of trafficked and prostituted children to the shelters. First, NGO workers outreach child victims in existing sex establishments – which include brothels, hotels, guest houses, dancing halls, beer gardens, karaoke rooms and massage parlours—to identify the victims who need and are willing to be rescued. Second, the child victims referred to the shelters by the police, hospitals, or other NGOs. Third, the child victims make their own way to the shelters (Rustam, 2004).

### **Reintegration**

Reintegration is often described as the last stage of the trafficking cycle for a victim. With the help of NGOs or IOs, child victims of sexual trafficking who received support services throughout their recovery and rehabilitation are better equipped before being reintroduced to respective parents and caregivers. However, they are only a few of the many other child victims who do not receive any support services and make their own way back to their families and communities. The number of organizations dedicated to recovery and reintegration is insufficient to meet the needs of Cambodian and Vietnamese girl trafficking victims (Rustam, 2004).

On May 31, 2003, the authorities of Cambodia and Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Bilateral Cooperation for the Elimination of Child and Women Trafficking. Among other things, the MOU allows both countries to work on investigations of transnational traffickers and the regularization of Cambodian trafficking victims' reintegration. The government intends to offer similar memorandums of understanding with Vietnam and Malaysia (Rustam, 2004).

## Stakeholders in combating CSEC by IOL 2007

Commercial sexual exploitation actors for children come in a wide range of sizes and shapes, and they can all perform complementary roles. Beneficiaries who will directly benefit from the actions, potential implementing partners who share the project's visions and objectives, decision makers whose actions can have a positive or negative impact on the problem, and adversaries who have opposing or conflicting views on the problem or the project are all examples of stakeholders. By evaluating stakeholders' roles, project planners should be able to develop coherent methods that support cooperation mechanisms among them. Because no single institution can cover all of the needs of the target populations, implementing agencies should develop partnerships with specialist organizations to ensure more comprehensive and high-quality services (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour [IPEC], 2007).

Academic and research institutions: This group can contribute to the issue's knowledge base by initiating qualitative and quantitative research studies and/or fact-finding activities in all areas related to CSEC, such as the demand side of commercial sex with children, the impact of male and masculinity on the issue, gender inequality, the victims' psychosocial needs, and so on (IPEC, 2007).

Adolescents and children: Children and adolescents are the most important stakeholders because they can actively participate in the formulation of intervention measures to care for and reintegrate victims or survivors, as well as participate in awareness education. They can form children's and youth clubs to advocate for their right to play and education, as well as serve as peer

educators. They are capable of expressing their own demands in personal concerns and initiating their own efforts to help other children and adolescents in need (IPEC, 2007).

Community groups include child labour committees, local child labor monitors, child rights committees, vigilance groups, community associations, civic organizations, religious groups, and community members. Members of the organization can help with monitoring local issues and sensitizing the general public. They can participate in prevention and public awareness efforts, build support networks, and actively engage with other players. They are also critical in training societies to accept withdrawn children and adolescents and in assisting their reintegration (IPEC, 2007).

Men make up the bulk of CSEC exploiters, despite the fact that both sexes are involved. As a result, the total number of students is a critical stakeholder group whose views and activities directly contribute to the existence of CSEC. They should participate in the victims of child oppression in two ways: as actors in campaigns to promote children's and women's rights and encourage male compatriots to reconsider their practices, and as targets for awareness education and media campaigns at the school, public institution, and establishment levels. It is vital that this stakeholder group knows the legal repercussions and penalties associated with CSEC participation (IPEC, 2007).

Schools and teachers, school principals, supervisors, and committees: Another important group that can play a key role in making people aware of children and parents at the school level, sensitizing teachers and educators at all levels, and collaborating with NGOs and other monitoring bodies to identify and detect children at risk is educators, school teachers, administrators, and



committees. They play a vital role in providing at-risk children, withdrawn children, and their families with formal, informal, non-formal, vocational, technical, and alternative educational and training programs. They can also participate in school and community surveys and research projects. Institutions specializing on skills training and entrepreneurship may also be included in the group (IPEC, 2007).

This group is made up of national tourism, hotel, service, and entertainment industry owners, executives, and operators. Local employers and enterprises, as well as community business owners, can band together to campaign for an establishment-level code of behaviour. They can advocate for children's rights and corporate ethics, such as a rules of behaviour barring the use of minors in commercial sex, and they can also give apprenticeship opportunities for skilled teenagers of working age. They can take part in legislative campaigns and contribute to the creation of national reports on child work and child rights. They can actively communicate with workers' groups, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on policy and campaign issues, as well as undertake preventive education programs, as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives (IPEC, 2007).

Institutions and operators of the media: The media can make a significant contribution to long-term attempts to influence public perceptions and social tolerance of CSEC. They can boost public awareness and alter public opinion by organizing media practitioners in their network to pay more attention to the topic. Otherwise, they can promote ethical reporting on child-rights concerns and provide media students and NGO personnel with training on how

to conduct successful media campaigns. In policy and legislative campaigns, the media can be a powerful tool (IPEC, 2007).

**Government agencies:** The ministries of interior, justice, education, social welfare, labour, and health, as well as the national child and youth bureau, are among the most prominent actors in the fight against CSEC. Their long-term structure ensures that services to target populations continue after the project ends, and one of their most valued assets is their influence on policymaking. The various agencies can join forces with other social partners in the ratification campaign for international treaties relating to children's rights and CSEC. Compiling success reports, updating related laws and regulations, boosting law enforcement, and ensuring that CSEC is addressed in national plans are all responsibilities of national governments. National governments' local ones in charge of social, legal, and health services can provide direct care to specific groups and monitor local situations. Governments at all levels can work together with other key players to create positive improvements in the legislative framework and service delivery (IPEC, 2007).

Law enforcement and the justice system, which would include legislative and judicial organizations, law enforcers, police officers, and national and municipal agencies dealing with crime suppression and child rights, are two of the most important actors in countering CSEC. They are also the focus of initiatives to enhance capacity and raise awareness (IPEC, 2007).

**NGOs:** Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with a wide range of specializations that provide direct assistance to children and families in at-risk and high-demand areas fall into this category. The panel can include experts in legal rights, child rights, human rights, women's rights, child labor, child

trafficking, CSEC, child exploitation, prostitution, gender inequity, or sexual diversity. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and groups that specialize in media campaigns, child and youth engagement, community education, and vocational skills training can also be included. This organization is crucial in the fight against child labour and CSEC. It can advocate for legislative changes, raise awareness, and engage in prevention initiatives with all stakeholders at all levels. Many of them can help withdrawn youngsters with educational, social, and rehabilitative programs, as well as youth group building and empowerment. NGOs can help prepare alternative national reports on the problem that can be submitted to international monitoring agencies. Operating telephone hotlines to receive reports of child sexual exploitation and CSEC is another activity that NGOs can successfully carry out in collaboration with government agencies, law enforcement entities, and specialized care providers (IPEC, 2007).

Among the organizations that provide specialized care are medical and psychosocial care institutions, health care facilities, HIV treatment centers, and addiction psychiatric hospitals, as well as child protection homes, social welfare homes, and education centers. The organization is instrumental in implementing a multidisciplinary approach and offering comprehensive care to CSEC victims and survivors (IPEC, 2007).

UN and international organizations: CSEC is linked to human trafficking and has the potential to have an international component. Other UN agencies that focus on specialized aspects of CSEC, including as IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, and WFP, can play an important role in assisting national partners and encouraging the formation of bi- or multi-lateral

agreements for victim repatriation and extraterritorial jurisdiction of criminals (IPEC, 2007).

Employees' companies: This is a vibrant group that may help campaign for policy changes, participate in tri-party conversations on the problem, provide alternative reports or comments on government reports on child labour issues, and construct child labour codes of conduct for trade unionists. Workers' organizations in the travel, lodging, service, and entertainment industries can cooperate with business owners, NGOs, and government agencies to ensure CSEC-free workplaces and improve client awareness of the risks of child sex tourism (IPEC, 2007).

Ending corporate exploitation of children and addressing the reasons that push children to prostitution are the greatest ways to avoid child prostitution (Martin, 2001). This necessitates a multi-agency, holistic approach that addresses factors that "push" children into prostitution; factors that encourage or allow exploiters/clients to seek sex with children; the effects of trauma that contribute to and result from prostitution; societal attitudes toward prostitution, poverty, and social minority groups; and prostitution's generativity.

The painful harm done by family life that has caused children to flee to the streets, the subsequent violence and trauma on the streets, and the likelihood of young prostitutes suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (Briere, 1992), as well as the attitudes of the agencies the sex worker may have to deal with, must all be taken into account in prevention and intervention. In their dealings with social service providers, many people have expressed a sense of powerlessness (Webber, 1991).

Everyone in every society bears responsible for ending commercial exploitation of children. Education, awareness-raising, altering attitudes toward children, vigilant law enforcement, criminal consequences against abusers/clients, and strong and devoted leadership are all needed in this field (UNICEF, 2001). According to UNICEF, the most successful interventions must consider unique local and regional variables, as well as a knowledge of the many ways in which children are exploited, the areas where children are exploited, the tactics used to recruit them, and the procedures used to keep them (UNICEF, 2001).

The United Nations has emphasized the following concerns while delivering services for kids who have been sexually exploited. Through educational and vocational training, all victims must be given with realistic alternative career prospects. School should be used to help children avoid sexual abuse and exploitation, and the compulsory education system should be strengthened. Responsible tourism must be promoted, and child sexual exploitation must be discouraged, according to national tourist boards. High-risk groups should be encouraged to participate in income-generating activities. More research is needed to fully understand child sexual abuse and exploitation and to improve the services available to address it. Further useful, culturally sensitive measures to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children; exploitation and violence against child domestic workers; sexual exploitation of adopted children; teachers' behaviour with children and youth, with a particular focus on the relationship abuse; the need to motivate child prostitutes away from sex work; the need to motivate child prostitutes away from sex work; the need

to motivate child prostitutes away from sex work; there was a reason to motivate child prostitutes away from sex work (UNECAP, 1999).

Sexual exploitation and abuse of children are complicated issues that require a multidisciplinary and well-integrated approach. Five recommendations are made by the United Nations guidelines.

1. Relevant members of the public sector, corporate sector, and civil society should be involved in the development and implementation of initiatives to address these concerns.
2. Service providers, the government, and law enforcement agencies should make networking and coordination a routine aspect of their operations, as well as an integral part of any action plan to address child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.
3. Institutions should be a little more open to exchanging information with experts who work on child sexual abuse and exploitation in order to collaborate on a holistic solution to the problem.
4. Programs to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation should be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis to establish their effectiveness. The findings of this evaluation should be shared with all parties involved on a regular basis so that programs can be adjusted as needed.
5. At the grassroots level, income-generation schemes should be integrated with government poverty alleviation programs as well as micro-credit schemes supplied to victims and potential victims' families (UNECAP, 1999).



Poverty reduction, child sexual abuse prevention, childhood trauma reduction resulting to drug and alcohol abuse, and changing the way we raise guys to prevent them from becoming sex offenders or sexual clients for children are all needed (Saphira, 1993).

The majority of assistance provided towards young people participating with sex work is centered mostly on principles of salvation and rehabilitation, which are viewed as punishing and confining by those they are designed to protect (Lee and O'Brien, 1995). The necessity of implementing techniques that are congruent with core notions of dealing with children was underlined at the Second World Congress on Child Sexual Exploitation in Yokohama. Among these are projects that are based on children's rights, encourage their participation, and take a holistic approach. It is crucial to foster cultural differences when they are positive, but traditional traditions that perpetuate abuse must be addressed (Warburton, 2001).

Motivational social work practices are appropriate people that feel powerless as a result of their experiences and have turned to destructive behaviors as a result. The approach should be nonjudgmental and person-centered, helping people to take back control of their lives and extend their future possibilities. It is not possible to impose such intervention; it must be done on the individual's terms (Foster, 1991, Oliveira, 2000). Stopping and preventing commercial sexual exploitation of children, on the other hand, will require a shift in public perception. As one young aboriginal sex worker put it: "they are always looking down on us and blaming us, but it's not only us. It's their husbands that are picking us up. Everyone is in denial; everybody pinpoints us and is blaming us because we are the ones out on the street. But

they are the ones that are picking us up and giving us money. They are always calling us little sluts and whores, but they never say anything about the johns like they're picture-perfect guys" (Save the Children, 2000 p. 25).

To yet, there has been no significant attempt to prosecute men who sexually exploit children upon that outdoors. The international society appears to have recognized, according to the literatures given above, that in order to protect people from gender based violence, the family must be supported when they are in need. It is thought to be the most important preventive intervention. The state also has a responsibility to provide social programs for the prevention, detection, and reporting of child sexual abuse. That's also crucial to the study of the factors that influence child prostitution, particularly in Ghana's western area.

### **Understanding the Specific Contexts of Child Prostitution**

It's critical to comprehend the situations in which child prostitution occurs, as well as the fact that it's frequently linked to poverty and familial dysfunction. "Survival sex" stresses young people's commercial sexual conduct as a means of obtaining basic necessities of existence, such as meals, medicines, clothing, transportation, or cash to purchase these goods and services (Ferguson, 1993). Young people do not perceive their commercial deviant desire to be sex work or prostitution, according to various studies (Ferguson 1993, Hancock 1994, Stewart, 1994). Commercial sexual practices may be pursued by young individuals for a variety of reasons, including sexual exploration, emotional attention, money, alcohol, and other perceived benefits (Tschirren et al., 1996). The term "sex for favours" suggests that sex can be used to make life more enjoyable or tolerable in terms of material goods or accommodation, as well as for emotional security, approval, attention, or affection (Martyn, 1998). This

sort of prostitution is referred to as opportunistic prostitution (Botka & Lye, 1993).

Definitions that are based on a financial gain classification may be restricted (Kelly et al., 1995). The use of children as a means of transaction between adults is a form of child sexual exploitation. For example, it was suggested in the Kincora case in Ireland that chronic abuse in boys' homes was maintained by males who established arrangements with the homes' officials to gain access to the boys.

The distinctions between child abuse, pornography, and prostitution are blurring. Many of the children who engage in commercial sexual activities had already been sexually assaulted (Giobbe, 1990). If we define child prostitution as incidents in which a child is given money or items by the perpetrator before or after intercourse, it can affect children of all ages (Saphira, 2001). We are more inclined to designate a youngster as a victim of child prostitution if he or she gets paid for sex by numerous perpetrators.

Furthermore, child prostitution can occur without the child receiving any financial advantage. Coercion can also take the form of making a young person available for sex in exchange for "protection" from threats of violence directed at them or another party. Another example is a young person who has been purposely introduced to drugs and is forced to continue delivering sex in order to sustain the established habit or lifestyle. According to Jeffreys (1997), there may be few or no options for the vulnerable and repeatedly traumatized young person. Sadly, rather than recognizing that they have lost control of their lives, many young people delude themselves into believing that they have made a free choice. Anyone engaging in the art of prostitution, according to anti-prostitution

feminists, is a victim by definition, regardless of permission or working conditions (Scoular, 2015).

### **Measurement and Monitoring**

The first concerns in defining practical terminology to begin the process of measuring and monitoring commercial sexual exploitation of adolescents are ideas of dignity and innocence, which are latent in all discourses but rarely examined. Until these concepts are made public and culturally relevant, the fight against child sexual exploitation will continue to sink in the quicksand of repetition and the reproduction of tired, biased notions. Because the Convention on the Rights of the Child is "the most extensive and comprehensive of all extant international human rights instruments" (Alston, 1994), it has raised special issues concerning the implementation of universal standards. As a result, cultural relativism has become a major issue in human rights issues, particularly in cases of child sexual exploitation and abuse. It may be claimed that the debate over the nature of the relationship between international or "universal" human rights standards and distinct cultural perspectives can never be resolved (Alston, 1994).

Children and childhood perspectives, on the other hand, are the primary underpinning of culture since children are constantly evolving into adults, which implies that their mere presence calls into question what it means to be a human being in any social group. Other aspects of social life, such as sexuality, are affected as a result. As a result, knowing cultural meanings is essential for any research, advocacy, or monitoring of commercial sexual exploitation of children. To say this is not to fall into the trap of cultural relativity, which could inhibit action and advocacy on behalf of children who are facing challenges:

Culture should not be excluded from the discussion of human rights, nor should it be elevated to the status of a meta-norm that takes precedence over rights (Alston, 1994).

A violation of a child's human dignity occurs when their sexuality is abused, exploited, or exploited for financial gain. Dignity is mentioned seven times in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and it is described as "a concept that pervades the document" (Melton, 1991). It is, nevertheless, undefinable. According to a previous Special Rapporteur to the United Nations on Sale and Traffic, the term 'dignity' appears before the word 'rights' in the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This means that all of the rights described subsequently in the declaration are founded on and justified by human dignity (Hoover, 2013). In the case of pornography, he recommends that images be released that "take into account all aspects of the fundamental value of respect for human dignity, which protects in particular the dignity of women and the innocence of children" (Hoover, 2013). This raises the question of whether children's dignity differs from that of adults and is rooted in their innocence.

There is no social science discourse on innocence, but there is a significant body of literature on purity that is worth investigating in this regard, the majority of which is linked to notions of honor and shame that occur in various regional discourses on child sexual exploitation. Although in most other parts of the world, the distinction between honour and shame is crucial (Ewing, 2020); Holy, 1991; Peristiany & Pitt-Rivers, 1992; Stewart, 1994), it takes on a different texture in different cultures (Ewing, 2020; Holy, 1991; Peristiany & Pitt-Rivers, 1992; Stewart, 1994). The constructs of sexuality and sexual

morality are influenced and guided by cultural notions of honour and shame, according to most anthropological writings. They are frequently used as the primary axis of evaluation. Furthermore, such ideas are theoretically inextricably linked to the study of child sex exploitation. Regardless of its relevance in each civilization, the dignity/disgrace nexus regulates both inter-sex and intra-sex relations and is tied to power. In most societies, traditional beliefs clearly impact conceptions of honor, shame, and purity. Furthermore, there is a strong link between purity and physical development, particularly puberty. This contributes to a improved epistemic thoughtful of puberty.

Despite the fact that the term "purity" is not necessarily sexual, it is frequently used to refer to sexuality and is strongly associated with the term "chastity" (Douglas, 2018). However, it might be difficult to define purity; does sexual purity entail virginity? Or does it refer to sexual expressions that are socially acceptable, such as marital fidelity? Is it correct that it has nothing to do with sexual purity and instead has anything to do with menarche? Pure often refers to being sexually undisturbed, especially when referring to women or children, but it can also relate to being sexually naive or passive. Females and infants are both meant to be sexually pure, but this takes various forms for each of them and has very different consequences.

The emphasis on purity is crucial if morality is founded on Christian tradition, and being a 'good' woman in these contexts requires being chaste or pure. For women, virginity, as well as the historically negative implications of sexuality, are heavily emphasized. St Paul, for example, considered celibacy as a more pure and superior alternative to marriage, and he saw sex as something to avoid or, if that failed, to steer towards marriage.



In Orthodox Catholicism, spiritual purity and integrity are synonymous. For example, the Virgin Mary is claimed to have given birth without losing her hymen, allowing her to keep her Virgo sign despite becoming a mother. Catholic women are expected to keep sexuality and reproduction separate, which is obviously problematic. Despite the fact that the main basis for sexual action is the chance of pregnancy, pure women are not supposed to be sexual or enjoy sexual engagement. Numerous studies have revealed that young individuals do not regard their commercial sexual behaviour as sex labour or prostitution, as evidenced by the preceding literatures. Ideas of dignity and innocence, which are latent in all discourses but rarely investigated, are among the first factors to be taken into account in developing operational terms to begin the process of measuring and monitoring commercial sexual exploitation of minors. The endeavour of combatting child sexual exploitation will continue to sink in the quicksand of repetition and the reproduction of exhausted, biased preconceptions until these principles are made public and culturally relevant. The following aspects were brought to bear in the course of the research on the contributing factors of child prostitution in Ghana's Western Region by using the mixed method, which combines qualitative and quantitative data collection methodologies.

### **Hazards of Sex Work**

What is clear is that once a young person engages in sex work, they are exposed to a number of dangers and obstacles. According to research, young people who engage in commercial sexual activities are more likely to have come from dysfunctional families, to be vulnerable to unsafe sex practices, and to be exposed to drug and alcohol use and abuse (Fitzgerald, 1997). Clients

demanding their money back after sex, refusing to transport the worker back to the street, and refusing to wear condoms are just a few of the dangers associated with sex work. Working on the streets is considered to be riskier than working in massage parlors (Plumridge & Abel, 2001), and many minors begin sex work on the streets. The emotional dangers and harm, on the other hand, may outweigh the physical ones. Case studies and testimony of child victims talk of trauma so severe that they are often unable to return to a regular way of life, as a New Zealand research attests (International Labour Organization, 1999, p. 18).

Jeannette started working with "sugar daddies" when she was 11 years old, and she was on the streets within two or three years. Six of the 10 street laborers in the research started working when they were 15, while the other three started when they were 16 or 17. These young women described leaving school and family to live on the streets, sometimes literally in the open, beneath bridges, in abandoned buildings with nothing but a mattress and a blanket (Jeannette), or even sliding into clothing donation bins (Suzanne). In most cases, squatting with friends, strangers, or clients was the norm. Suzanne said, "I'd just crash everywhere." Others were being held in some form of confinement. As a result, the image portrays a group of young women who are typically homeless, have few familial ties, and have a history of poor educational outcomes. They were powerless and driven into prostitution because they lacked the ability to earn anything other than a pittance, and others were too young to work legally or be eligible for any public subsidies (Plumridge, 2001 p. 207).

Several Australian studies have discovered that instead of being overtly homeless, young women may choose to trade sex for shelter (Dwyer, 1989; Hancock, 1994; Hirst, 1989, cited in Fitzgerald, 1997). According to several studies, some child prostitutes have mental illnesses, many have a range of emotional issues, and up to half of them have attempted suicide at least once (Davidson, 1998). In a Queensland study of at-risk kids, Stewart (1994) discovered that 65 percent of people involved in sex work had self-inflicted self-harm.

### **Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

According to Khan and Rahman (1999), a theoretical framework is a structure that can hold or support a research work's theory. It presents a theory that explains why the problem under inquiry happens. As a result, the theoretical framework is nothing more than a hypothesis that can be used to perform research. In the light of existing research findings on child prostitution, this section reviews the various theories underpinning prostitution. Decriminalization model, Demographic Transition Theory (DTT), Agnew's General Strain Theory, and Epidemiologic Transition Theory (ETT) have all been utilized in the context of child prostitution, according to a review of the literature. In this study, the gender pathways theory (GPT) and Agnew's general strain theory are used to solve the problem of determining the contributing factors of children stuck in child prostitution. In addition, a conceptual framework for this investigation is depicted.

### **Gender Pathways Theory (GPT)**

Gender pathways theory (GPT) is a feminist theory that examines the origins and contexts of female criminality (Miller & Mullins, 2009). It could

help to explain how youngsters are exploited. Feminist theory has often exploited the devaluation of women and the global industrialization of prostitution to explain the high frequency of women and girls entrapped in sex trafficking (Clawson, 2009; Farr, 2005; Jeffreys, 2010; Morash, 2006). By focusing on harmful sequences emerging from parental violence, GPT describes a road from early childhood victimization to successive and intensifying victimizations, culminating in entrapment in prostitution (Giordano et al., 2006; Miller & Mullins, 2009).

According to GPT, female delinquency and criminal activity may be the result of cultural and psychological causes that differ from typical male delinquency and criminal activity (Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996; Heimer & Kruttschnitt, 2006; Miller, 2008a; Miller & Mullins, 2009). According to Steffensmeier and Allan (1996), significant pressures that are important to female routes into crime include victimization, role entrapment, economic marginality, and survival necessities.

Furthermore, Gender Strain Theory (GST) offers a useful interpretation of the potent genesis of individual strain in caregivers and their children, which may promote a caustic continuum of victimizations and eventually lead to the entrapment of maltreated adolescents in sex trafficking in prostitution. Based on the previous theoretical assessments, a plausible model of the mechanisms contributing to increasing susceptibility and entrapment of adolescents in child prostitution is offered.

According to Miller and Mullins, gender has been shown to influence important components of life course theory in areas such as social embeddedness, intergenerational links, and human agency (2009). According to

their findings, gender matters, and gendered theories of juvenile victimization may be both important and necessary for understanding girls' victimization. Gender has been demonstrated to have a significant impact on offending when it comes to social embeddedness (that is, social links to others). Intimate partner violence and close ties with criminals are key gendered criminogenic variables that have a strong impact on female offending (Steffensmeier, & Allan, 1996; Brown, & Bloom, 2009; Miller, & Mullins, 2009).

When it comes to social interactions as a protective factor, studies that look at school participation or religious links as indicators of informal social control have discovered that these types of social control protect girls more than boys (Agnew, 2005; Daigle et al., 2009; Payne et al., 2005).

More evidence supports the hypothesis that female social interactions have a greater impact on criminal behavior than male patterns (Hartman, Turner, Daigle, Exum, & Cullen, 2009). For example, researchers have discovered that family closeness, strong family bonds, and parental support are higher protective factors for females than for boys when it comes to protective variables (Kroneman, Loeber, Hipwell, & Koot, 2009; Hartman et al., 2009).

GPT research has also looked into the consequences of intergenerational linkages on offending, including as the effects of early abuse, family adversity, and the failure to pay for dependents (Alarid & Cromwell, 2006; Gaarder, & Belknap, 2002; Haynie et al., 2007; Katz, 2000; Salisbury & Van Voorhis, 2009). Girls detained by the juvenile justice system scored higher than boys on risk variables such as traumatic childhood experiences and family dysfunction (Caffman, Lexcen, Goldweber, Shulman & Grisso, 2007; Gavazzi, Yarcheck, & Chesney-Lind, 2006). In life cycle theory, human agency is frequently

described as "the process through which people choose roles and situations for themselves" (Elder & Giele, 2009). When people are born into and grow up in specific communities and historical periods, they face unique challenges. Individuals make decisions within the limits of their historical, geographical, and social settings (Maher, 1997).

Gender inequality is thought to be the result of institutional, sociological, and cultural mechanisms that limit female choice and lead to differences in offending between men and women (Adler, 1975; Gaardner & Belknap, 2002; Heimer & De Coster, 1999; Lynch, 1996; Katz, 2000; Messerschmidt, 1993; Maher, Dunlap, Johnson, & Hamid, 2006; Miller, 2008b; Miller & Mullins, 2006; White, 2009). For example, the disparity in men's and women's choices, as well as the resulting economic inequities, have long-term effects, as women remain economically marginalized, leading to the feminization of poverty (Brown & Bloom, 2009; Gaarder & Belknap, 2002; Heimer et al., 2006; Lynch, 1996; Morash, 2006; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996; Wisdom, 2000). Adults are biologically, psychologically, and legally responsible for children's survival (Agnew, 1985; Finkelhor, 1984, 2007; Kempe, 1985). As a result, children of both genders' agency is severely limited by their dependency status, with females experiencing greater disadvantage and fewer opportunities than boys (Chesney-Lind, 1989; Hanna, 2002; Miller & Mullins, 2006, 2009). The amplification of unfairness based on the intersection of gender and age emphasizes the need for gendered theories of juvenile victimization (Finkelhor, 2007; Miller & Mullins, 2009).



## **Child Victimization Pathway into Exploitation in Prostitution**

Adolescent females are considered as more prone to sexual exploitation as a result of their socialization into gendered scripts. Males are expected to initiate sexual contact, whilst adolescent females are expected to follow suit (Chesney-Lind, 1989; Hanna, 2002; Miller & Mullins, 2006, 2009; Steffensmeier & Allan, 1996). During adolescence, male dominance and female submissive habits are reinforced. Some females may fall prey to "painfully one-sided sexual transactions" with sex traffickers, who frequently pose as lovers or rescuers, as a result of entrenched cultural norms or gendered scripts, as well as a lack of sexual experience (Hanna, 2002, p. 12).

The following life challenges, according to Giordano et al. (2006), are symptomatic of the path many girls take to prostitution: To avoid sexual assault, the girl flees her family and engages in illicit activity to make ends meet on the streets. She meets opportunistic guys who promote or demand more unlawful activities, such as prostitution, and she self-medicates to cope with the abuse and exploitation by using drugs and alcohol. To cope with the abuse, exploitation, and other terrible events, the girl eventually self-medicates with drugs or alcohol.

In a review of human trafficking research, Godziak and Bump (2008a) found that poverty and the desire for a better life are by far the most discussed "push factors" and primary reasons for why women and, in particular, children are at risk for trafficking (p. 9). Women's studies and feminist ideas have provided further explanations for sex trafficking of women and girls, stating that patriarchal gender arrangements present in many countries encourage victimization of women and girls (Farr, 2005; Godziak & Bump, 2008a;

Hotaling et al., 2006; Jeffreys, 2009; Morash, 2006; Raymond et al., 2010). When girls are seen as a financial burden, their caregivers may abandon them or sell them to human traffickers. Similarly, the disproportionately high prevalence of entrapment in child sex trafficking experienced by girls in contrast to boys may be a generating source of gender disparities due to the devaluation of girls and women (Clawson, 2009; Jeffreys, 2010).

A severe lack of legitimate labour opportunities for females may also compel girls and women into sexually exploitative partnerships, since such arrangements may be the only viable option for survival or escape from awful situations (Clawson, 2009; Farr, 2005; Morash, 2006).

#### **Agnew's general strain theory**

Victims of child sex trafficking are frequently ignored, misidentified, and underfunded. The majority of past research on child sexual trafficking was conducted without a theoretical framework or appropriate sample techniques. The proposed pathway's generative elements can be explained by two theories: Agnew's general strain theory and mechanisms operating inside the life trajectory that lead to child sex trafficking and prostitution (Agnew, 1992, 2006a).

Child maltreatment, such as child neglect, child physical abuse, and juvenile sexual victimization, has been linked to caregiver stress in studies. As a result, neglected and abused children were more likely to engage in risk-inducing behaviours such as running away and initiating drug or alcohol use earlier, as well as reporting higher levels of relational shame. Vulnerability to victimization in child sex trafficking in prostitution was influenced by both running away and early onset of substance use. Finally, the findings'

implications for criminal justice professionals, child protection investigators, and social service providers are presented, including protection and intervention strategies that are expected to obstruct minors' progression along the analytically identified pathway into child sex trafficking in prostitution (Agnew, 2006a).

In conclusion, a critical examination of various theories reveals that, while each of these theoretical structures has merits and drawbacks in terms of explanatory value, the most coherent and (more importantly) child-centered framework for measuring and monitoring commercial sexual exploitation of children appears to be the right of children. This is due to the fact that discussing children's rights necessitates a debate of the essence of childhood, which is enshrined in the power disparity between adults and children. Discussion of this unequal relationship opens the door to discussion of other universal inequities that exist in various cultural and historical forms. This would imply that a monitoring framework based on these concepts would be both stable and adaptable. Children's relationships with adults within families are linked to children's relationships with states, which, in their modern forms, are ultimately responsible for monitoring parenting, schooling, and employment, childhood's key socializing institutions. Similarly, the child/family/state trinity exists within regional and global dominance systems, which include economic inequality, political inequity, and, last but not least, tourism.

Early teenage growth may make them particularly prone to the challenges connected with living on the streets (Unger et al., 1998). Children and young teenagers are prone to being exploited because of their social, cognitive, sexual, and physical immaturity. Consumer laws protect young

people, but they must rely on adults to teach how to apply the rules to file complaints and receive restitution. Their cognitive awareness of the transaction and its long-term ramifications is lacking, as well as their physical, psychological, social and emotional immaturity (Johnson, 1999). Few "ship girls" had a basic understanding of their anatomy and desire, and many had never experienced sexual pleasure (Saphira, 1982).

Penetrative sex is not appropriate for most children and teenagers. When it comes to sexually transmitted microorganisms, pre-menarchal girls have an undeveloped reproductive system that is less able to withstand invasion and subsequent injury (Moscicki et al., 1989). Because sexual activity is sometimes forceful and can inflict internal damage that disrupts the normal vaginal and infection barriers, children are more susceptible to sexually transmitted illnesses than adults (Lemmey & Tice, 2000).

Individuals with early adolescent features may be more prone to maladaptive behavior (Unger et al., 1998). Although adolescents' cognitive thinking is still developing, they lack the ability to contemplate long-term consequences (for example, not using a condom, mixing pills and alcohol). Despite their street expertise, young sex workers' intellectual and socio-emotional development may be slower than that of their peers due to the unstable families they may have come from. This is especially true for persons who have been mistreated physically or sexually in the past (Briere, 1992). Some abuse survivors have learnt that thinking ahead means anticipating another night of abuse, and as a result, they will never complete this developmental task.

Many victims of abuse view the environment as hostile, making it difficult for teen sex workers to trust those who can assist them. There were 467 sexually exploited children in the study and the author noted how difficult it was to get information from the subjects. When it came to discussing themselves and their health problems with strangers, many of the youngsters interviewed were shy and unwilling to open up about themselves (UNECAP, 1999).

Self-harm and excessive sexual activity were once considered as signs of weak impulse control, but they can now be viewed as a way to relieve anxiety. As a means of maintaining high levels of adrenaline and avoiding emptiness, frequent and swiftly initiated sexual behaviour can be used to sustain high levels of excitement and attention (Briere, 1992). This sexual impulsivity can be tamed by doing sex work. A developmental component that may keep young people working on the streets is the social group in which a young person's desire for peers is addressed. There is typically no time for healing for young survivors of abuse during their pubertal years, and the young sex worker is likely to be further traumatized by the perils of the job (Farley & Hotaling, 1997). In some ways, the dangers of this job may satiate cravings to self-harm or, at the very least, self-distraction.

### **Other Theories of Child Prostitution**

#### **De-criminalization Model**

As soon as a lady is called "prostitute", she is ostracized from society (Karras, 1996). As a result, prostitution is viewed negatively. A decriminalization method is utilized to lessen the stigma associated with prostitution when all prostitution-related laws are repealed and prostitution is

treated like any other form of business. Working men and women in the industry should have access to the healthcare and protection they demand.

As a result, decriminalization may lessen exploitation and mistreatment by bringing prostitutes out of the shadows and placing them within reach of legal protection. This strategy envisions repealing all prostitution laws that address the root causes of prostitution. If a strategy can address these issues while also respecting the civil and economic rights of prostitutes, it may be beneficial for Ghana to adopt such a strategy (Outshoorn, 2008). For instance, New Zealand in 2003 decriminalized prostitution. As a result of the new rule, prostitution could now be run like any other economic enterprise "by enabling trade union membership, employment contracts, and legal contracts to be created with clients." A framework was created by the Prostitution Reform Act of 2003 to defend "the human rights of sex workers and protect them from exploitation. "Sex workers are exercising their legal rights to deal with poor-quality brothel owners or abusive clients," Tim Barnett, a British-born former New Zealand MP, says (Allott, Paxton and Leonard, 1999). As a result, decriminalization aims to provide security to prostitutes by allowing them to sue in court for violations of their profession or services. Prostitution strikes me as a form of forced labor all of a sudden.

Furthermore, it has been discovered that decriminalization increases trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Because human trafficking is one of the issues that must be addressed within countries, decriminalization is not a practical solution. In addition, New Zealand's decriminalization strategy eliminates arrests for soliciting. Requesting for the purpose of prostitution is a public nuisance. As a result, solicitation is one prostitution-related practice that



the UK has attempted to regulate throughout history, as the state has a responsibility to maintain peace and protect the nation from nuisance. As a result, decriminalizing prostitution might be said to be a violation of the state's responsibility to safeguard the public. Furthermore, street-based prostitution is more problematic in terms of drug usage than off-street prostitution.

### **Demographic Transition Theory**

As countries evolve, Demographic Transition Theory focuses on fertility and mortality. As a result of increasing female literacy, certain countries' women's status and fertility rates may improve as a result of this factor. The fact that women are not spending their most productive years in childbearing, as well as the fact that the risk of a woman dying in childbirth is reduced, all contribute to a country's growth. Child prostitution is more common in areas with high fecundity and low female literacy, according to DTT. Fecundity rates are lower in industrialized countries, and literacy and life expectancy rates are greater. Women also have more authority in these countries.

In order to measure and monitor any social occurrence, an organized blueprint of concepts is required. Several clusters of ideas and theories in the subject of commercial sexual exploitation of children could be regarded for their utility as organizing principles for the development of concepts and the collection of data.

According to Bandura (1977), social learning theory states that behavior is learnt by observational learning from the environment. As they watch the people around them, they see how they behave in different situations. The famous bobo doll experiment is a good example of this (Bandura, 1961). Models

are people who have been photographed. Parents, children's television celebrities, peer group mates, and school teachers are just a few of the many important role models that children experience in society. Men and women can learn from these models how to behave. Several of these persons (models) are observed and their behaviour is encoded by them. Their behaviour may be copied at a later date. Even if the behaviour isn't "gender appropriate," there are a number of factors that increase the likelihood that a kid will repeat the behaviour that his or her culture considers appropriate for his or her sexual orientation.

Children are more prone to pay attention and copy those that they see as being similar to themselves. A person who shares the same gender as you is more likely than not to emulate your behaviour. Second, the people around the youngster will either reinforce or punish the behaviour it imitates. Because of the positive effects of imitating an adult, children are more likely to continue imitating that behaviour. Seeing a youngster comforting her teddy bear and hearing a parent express "what a nice girl you are" encourages the child to do it again. Because of this, she has become more aggressive (i.e. strengthened). It is possible for reinforcement to be good or negative, and it can come from the outside or from within. An external reinforcement occurs when a child seeks approval from parents or peers, but an internal reinforcement occurs when a child is pleased to be accepted. In order to gain approval, children will behave in a way that they feel will gain it. A person's needs must be met before positive or negative reinforcement may have any effect. A person's behaviour will normally alter as a result of reinforcement, whether positive or negative. Third, when deciding whether or not to imitate someone's behaviour, the kid will

evaluate what happens to other people. As a result, there is a phenomenon called as vicarious reinforcement.

This has to do with a strong attachment to specific models with desirable characteristics. A wide range of role models will appeal to children. These individuals could be persons from their immediate environment, such as parents or older siblings, or fictional characters or media figures. The desire to identify with a specific model originates from the fact that they have a trait that the individual desires. When you identify with someone else (the model), you take on (or adopt) their observed actions, values, beliefs, and attitudes.

Identification is a word used by Social Learning Theory that is similar to the Freudian term for the Oedipus complex. Internalizing or adopting another person's behaviour, for example, is something they both do. During the Oedipus complex, a child can only identify with the same sex parent; but, with Social Identity Theory, a person (child or adult) can theoretically identify with anyone. Identification varies from imitation in that it can include a wide range of behaviours, whereas imitation usually involves mimicking only one.

**Table 1: Campaign Theories on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**

<b>Campaign</b>	<b>Theory</b>
Feminism	Patriarchy, the 'girl-child'
Morality	Religion, sexuality, blaming perpetrators, rescuing children
Child survival and development	Psychology, medicine
International development aid	Poverty, demand and supply (economics), community development
Children's rights (including sexual rights)	Power, childhood, human rights

## **Towards a Universal Framework Using the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

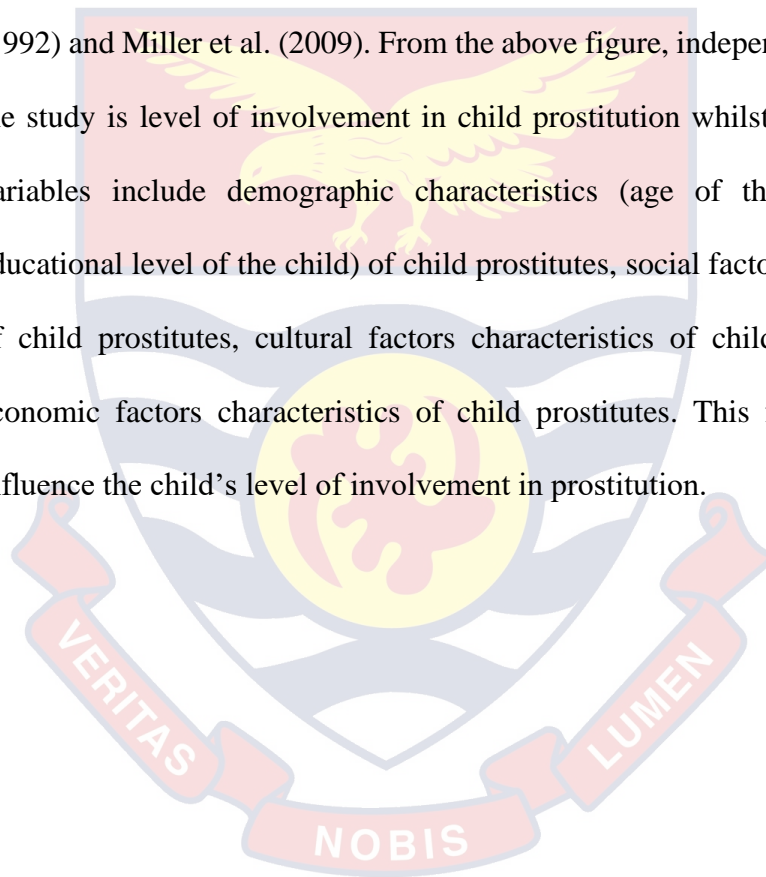
According to the literature review, children's rights, as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, can be used as a framework for both understanding and judging commercial sexual exploitation of children in the broadest possible context. Article 34, or even other sections dealing with abuse and exploitation, should not be the Convention's only relevant articles. If the goal is to eliminate sexual exploitation, the full force of the law should be employed to ensure that campaigns do not consist just of declarations of purpose, legislation, prosecutions, rescue operations, and victim rehabilitation. To protect children from sexual exploitation, all applicable articles must be used.

Despite the fact that attempts to monitor the Convention on the Rights of the Child began with the idea of developing an article-by-article list of indicators, the majority of workers in this field have abandoned it in favour of constructing systems of linked indicators based on clusters of related articles. One method of clustering the articles of the Convention to develop a statewide monitoring system is already under construction in Vietnam and Nicaragua as part of the Child Watch International Indicators for Children's Rights effort (Ennew & Miljeteig, 1996). Articles could be grouped or concentrated in the case of extremely intractable and urgent situations, such as child sexual exploitation, to give a framework for monitoring a specific issue.

Putting such a framework in place initially necessitates attention to a crucial part of indicator development: formulation of an operational notion. It's difficult to measure a thing without first comprehending it. As a result, it is

necessary to take some time to grasp the concepts involved before rushing to count the number of children engaging in any activity. As a result, the diagram's right-hand side includes a list of concepts that must be defined before the phenomena may be evaluated. The beauty of a system like this is that, while the framework is universal, the definition of ideas can be culturally appropriate while still conforming to the Convention's core principles.

Table 1 represents the framework from the point of view of Agnew (1992) and Miller et al. (2009). From the above figure, independent variable for the study is level of involvement in child prostitution whilst the independent variables include demographic characteristics (age of the child, highest educational level of the child) of child prostitutes, social factors characteristics of child prostitutes, cultural factors characteristics of child prostitutes and economic factors characteristics of child prostitutes. This factor intends to influence the child's level of involvement in prostitution.



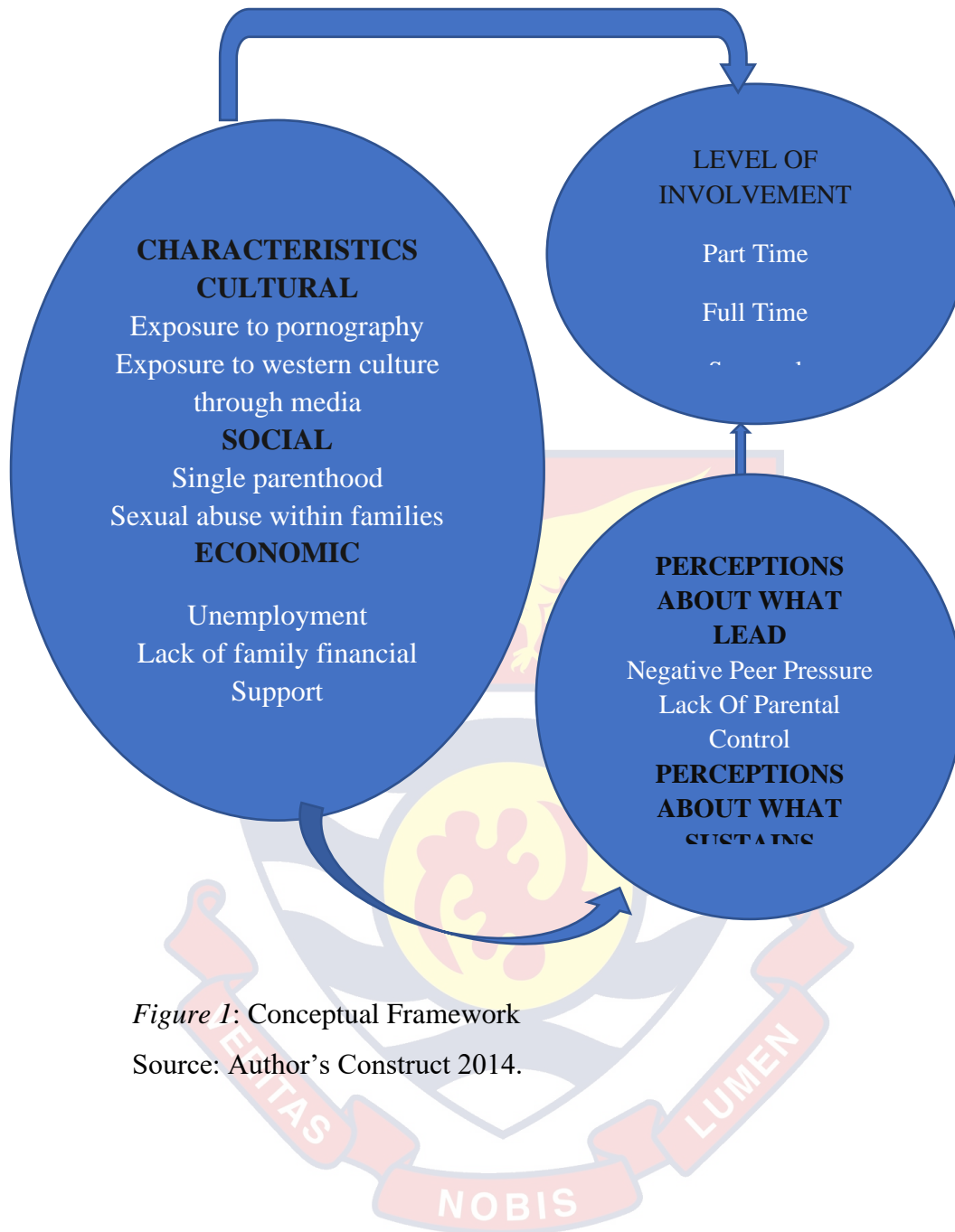


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework  
Source: Author's Construct 2014.



## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

This chapter concentrates on the research methodology used in conducting the study. The issues discussed include the type of research, research philosophy, research strategy, research design, research purpose, unit of analysis, population, sample and sampling techniques, the instrument used to collect the data, sources of data, data collection procedure and the procedure for data analysis, pre-testing, validation and reliability of research instrument and ethical issues.

#### **Research Philosophy**

Research philosophy is the set of beliefs about how to gather, analyze, and use research data.

The impacts of a researcher's approach in the development of knowledge are reflected in his or her research philosophy (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009). The research strategy and methodology is determined by the philosophy. Pragmatism is the concept that underpins this research. Pragmatism is founded on the assumption that research should focus on "practical understandings" of tangible, real-world problems rather than philosophical debates about the nature of truth and reality (Patton, 2005: 153). It's a study philosophy based on the idea that there's no one-size-fits-all approach to learning, but that there are a variety of approaches to grasping anything (Saunders, et al. 2012; Collis, et al 2014 and Wilson, 2010). As a result, a number of research approaches, including qualitative and quantitative research, are used to investigate the various realities. The researcher intends to get a better knowledge of the manifestation problem/s under study by combining the perspectives of people who have had the events

with scientific modelling used to gain knowledge of the multiple realities. The quantitative method allowed both fact and theory testing. A wide perspective of child prostitution was taken using mixed method approaches, which included both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. The researcher further sought to get a deeper knowledge of the manifestation problem/s under investigation by combining the perspectives of people who are currently in prostitution and under age of 18 year with those who are older than eighteen but started prostitution when they were less than eighteen. The qualitative approach lead to a more detailed understanding of research questions and outcomes of the quantitative research,

### **The Study Area**

The research was conducted in some selected coastal towns in the Western Region of Ghana. The Western Area is located in Ghana's south-western region, according to the Ghana Statistical Service's regional analysis report from the 2010 population and housing census. It is bordered on the west by La Cote d'Ivoire, on the east by the Central Region, on the north by sections of the Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions, and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea (Atlantic Ocean). It encompasses 23,921 square kilometers of Ghana's total land area, or about 10% of the country's total land area. It has a total coastal length of 192 kilometers. Ghana's southernmost point is Cape Three Points, near Busua in the Ahanta West District. (Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, 2006).

The Western Region of Ghana is one of the ten (10) administrative regions that make up the country. The former Western Province was divided into the Region in July 1960. The administrative capital of Sekondi is Sekondi.

The Regional Co-ordinating Council (RCC) was established under Section 140 of the Local Government Act 1993 (Act 462) to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the actions of Sector Departments such as Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). The RCC does this with the intention of making people's lives better (Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, 2006).

### **Physical Features**

According to a regional analysis report on the 2010 population and housing census published in 2013 by the Ghana Statistical Service. Human activities and, as a result, the development of individuals and their homes are influenced by the physical environment. Distinct physical traits bring with them different resources to tap into and obstacles to overcome in order to ensure that everyone enjoys a safe and happy quality of life. The region is traversed by the Pra, Ankobra, Tano, and Bia rivers. With the exception of the Ankobra, the remaining rivers have their sources in forests in nearby regions and flow southwards towards the sea. Outside of Ghana, the Tano and Bia enter the sea through La Cote d'Ivoire. The Pra River has the ability to generate hydropower (Dickson & Benneh, 2001).

### **Political and Administrative Structures**

In the Western Region, the Regional Coordinating Council possesses political and administrative control (RCC). The Western Region is divided into 17 districts (Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, 2006). Table 2 shows the Western Region's political and administrative districts.

**Table 2: Study Area in the Western Region**

<b>District</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Capital</b>
Ahanta West	District	Agona Nkwanta
Sekondi- Takoradi	Metropolitan	Sekondi
Shama	District	Shama

Source: Regional Coordinating Council, Sekondi (2014)

### **Social Structure**

Furthermore, the Ghana Statistical Service believes that the Western Region's natives are largely Akans. The Region's Akans are divided into five primary subgroups: Ahantas, Nzemas, Sefwis, Aowins, and Wassas, each with 21 paramountcies. Nsein, Lower Axim, Upper Axim, Apatem, Gwira, Atuabo, Benyin, Aowin, Suman, Wiawso, Wassa, Fiase, Upper Dixcove, Lower Dixcove, and Sefwi Bekwai are among the paramountcies. Other indigenous minorities, such as the Pepesa, whose distinctive dialect is intelligible by the Nzemas, Ahantas, Aowins, and Sefwis, exist alongside these five major subgroups. In the southern section of the region, Fanti is extensively spoken as a second language alongside indigenous languages. In lower primary levels, Fante is also employed as a medium of instruction and as an examinable subject (Ghana Statistical Service [GSS], 2014).

There are also non-indigenous settlers in the area, such as Ga, Fantis, and Ashante, whose grandparents moved to the Western region for economic reasons some years ago from other parts of Ghana. the year 2014 (GSS).

The constitutional protection of freedom of worship expresses the people's beliefs. In 2010, Christianity (82 percent) was the most popular religion in the Western Region, followed by Islam (9.3 percent). Despite the region's

historic social framework, traditional religion has dropped from 1.5 percent in 2000 to 0.8 percent in 2010. In the region, there are a variety of festivals to attend. Four of these festivals, however, are the most popular. Kundum, Afahye (Akwantukase), Alluole, and Nkronu are the four. With the exception of the Wassa, Sefwi, Shama, and Mphohor traditional areas, all other traditional councils celebrate Kundum festival between August and November with glitzy drumming and dancing. The importance of these traditional celebrations can't be overstated.

### **Economy and Living Conditions**

According to the 2010 PHC, the Western Region has tremendous economic resources. It is the country's greatest cocoa producer, producing more than half of all cocoa produced in the country. It is also the world's greatest producer of lumber and the world's second largest producer of gold, behind the Ashanti Region. It is the sole producer of rubber, bauxite, and manganese. It is also the world's leading crude oil producer. Agriculture, according to the Ghana statistical service's 2010 PHC report, remains the region's economic backbone.

Tourism, as mentioned in the 2010 PHC, is another economic potential being used to generate foreign currency for the region and the country as a whole. Some of the country's most prominent ecotourism destinations are Bia National Park and Reserve, Egambra Crocodile Sanctuary, WassaDomama Rock Shrine, Nzulezu Settlement (settlement on stilts over Lake Tadane), and Boako Waterfalls. The forts in the area are also popular tourist destinations. These forts include Fort Appolonian in Beyin, Fort Cross in Dixcove, Fort Batensteyn in Butre, Fort Fredericksburg in Prince Town, Fort Antonio in Axim, Fort Dorothea (ruins) in Akwidaa, and Fort Sebastian in Shama. Another

probable tourist draw is the beach. The most popular beaches are Busua Pleasure Beach, Ajua Beach, and Princess Town Beach. Nkroful, the birthplace of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, is also a tourist attraction.

### **Demographics**

The region has a population of 2,376,021 people, with 1,187,774 males and 1,188,247 women, according to the 2010 PHC. The population under the age of 15 years makes up 39.6% of the total, while those aged 15 to 64 make up 57.0 percent and those aged 65 and above make up the remaining 3.4 percent. Cities are home to 42.4 percent of the population. The regional population density has increased to 99.3 people per square kilometer, up from 80.4 in 2000. Among the 17 Districts in the Region, the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolis has the highest population share of 23.5 percent, while Nzema East Municipal has the lowest population share of 2.6 percent (GSS, 2014).

The Western Region was chosen as the study area because the discovery of oil in the region has attracted related economic activities and migrant workers (both inside and outside the country), mostly single men looking for greener pastures, which is likely to increase economic activity and demand for some services such as entertainment, tourism, and pleasure, including child prostitution.

### **Research Design**

Research design, according to Burns and Groove (2001), is a "blueprint" for conducting a study while keeping control over aspects that influence the study's outcomes. These include arranging and conducting the study in such a way that the quality of the results is increased while also serving as a foundation for ongoing efforts (Burns & Groove, 2001).



The research technique, according to Creswell (2009), refers to how the researchers will collect, evaluate, and interpret empirical data. According to Bryman et al. (2005) and Alvesson and Sköldbberg (2008), when conducting research, one can utilize either a qualitative or quantitative approach. According to them, the quantitative method starts with the researchers' perspective of what will be studied and focuses on numbers as a central unit of analysis, whereas the qualitative method starts with the study object's perspective and focuses on words (Denscombe, 2000; Alvesson, & Sköldbberg, 2008). Bryman et al. (2005) go on to say that a defining aspect of quantitative methods is that they use a deductive approach with an emphasis on theory testing. According to Christenson et al. (2016), although qualitative data is something that one tries to comprehend, quantitative data is usually quantitatively analyzed. They went on to say that quantitative data may be analyzed, making it more suitable for generalization.

This study aims to learn about child prostitutes' perspectives on the variables that contribute to and perpetuate girls' prostitution in a few municipalities in Ghana's Western Region. This study used an explanatory sequential mixed technique, in which quantitative data is collected first, then qualitative data is obtained to provide additional insight into the quantitative data (Cresswell & Plano, 2007). Quantitative study aimed to explain phenomena by gathering numerical data and analyzing it using mathematically based approaches, particularly statistics (Aliaga and Gunderson, 2002). It mostly deals with visible and measurable occurrences involving people, events, or things, as well as determining the strength of the relationship between variables, which is commonly done through statistical tests (Couchman & Dawson, 1995). A

quantitative study also relies heavily on numbers compiled into statistics to allow the researcher to evaluate the data and draw conclusions (Cormack & Benton 1996). For this study, however, both quantitative and qualitative designs (mixed approach) were used. This was chosen to suit the study's specific objectives, to address the research problem, and to avoid the study's sensitive nature making it difficult to recruit participants. Furthermore, the study's characteristics are consistent with the mixed method research paradigm.

### **Mixed Methods Research Designs**

A mixed research technique is a research approach or methodology that focuses on study topics that require real-world context, multi-level viewpoints, and cultural influences. This method was chosen because it combines thorough quantitative study into the volume and frequency of variables with rigorous qualitative research into the meaning and interpretation of those variables. It also stressed the use of many procedures (in-depth interviews with an interview guide and schedule), as well as actively integrating or combining diverse ways to optimize the strengths of each, and finally structuring the study around philosophical and theoretical principles.

An explanatory sequential mixed method design was utilized in this study, which integrates quantitative and qualitative approaches in a single study that is completed progressively (i.e. collection and analysis of quantitative data after which qualitative data is collected and analysed to further elaborate the quantitative findings).

A descriptive survey design for the quantitative aspect and Phenomenological inquiry approach was used for the qualitative aspect, using thematic content analysis technique for the qualitative aspect of the research. The qualitative data

and analysis strengthens and clarifies the qualitative data's findings in greater detail.

According to Donalek (2004), the phenomenological approach analyses experiences through the descriptions supplied by the people involved. The main objective of the approach is to identify and describe the actual phenomenon in detail. An in-depth one-on-one interview with one respondent at a certain time was conducted to collect data for the qualitative section of the study, and the qualitative data was analyzed utilizing descriptions of experiences, appraisal of meanings, and theme development.

Maree and Pietersen (2007) define survey design as "the assessment of current status, opinions, attitudes, and beliefs from a known population using data collection sheets, questionnaires, or interviews". To put it another way, surveys are said to describe what already exists. They work with big samples of a few hundred to a few thousand people. Traditional questionnaires delivered over the phone or in person, postal pencil-and-paper surveys, or, increasingly, web-based and e-mail forms are used to collect data. Because of its high degree of representativeness and the ease with which a researcher may collect the opinions of the participants, a descriptive design was chosen (Polit, & Beck 2014).

In this study, the researcher gathered and described the respondents' perspectives on the nature of their prostitute exposure. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with the respondents.

Descriptive surveys were used to gather information about the features of the field of study by depicting circumstances as they occurred. The researcher chose the descriptive survey design in order to examine the perception of the

prostitutes on factors influencing their entry and sustaining their stay in prostitutes. The researcher made no attempt to influence or manipulate the situation (Burns & Grove, 2001). The designs offered the opportunity to conduct the study in a natural unchanged environment of the subject and collect a large amount of detailed data for the study.

### **Study Population**

A population, according to Polit and Beck (2014), is the sum of cases that share a set of characteristics. The target population refers to the set of instances from which the researcher wants to draw conclusions (Polit, & Beck, 2014). Therefore the population for this study was all child prostitutes in the Western Region of Ghana. Child prostitutes who were concentrated in the metropolis of Ahanta West, Shama, Sekondi and Takoradi, all in the Western Region. The size of the population is frequently unclear in sensitive study like this. In Ghana, there are no statistics (or even estimations) on the number of minors who engage in prostitution.

In sensitive studies like these, the population number is typically unknown. In Ghana, there are no statistics (or even estimations) on the number of minors who engage in prostitution. The following were the criteria for inclusion in this population study:

1. The prostitutes must be girls
2. The prostitute girls must be below 18years
3. Those above 18years should have started engaging in prostitution before age 18
4. They must be operating within the Western Region of Ghana.

## Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

A sample is a subset of the population, whereas a population is the total number of people who share a set of characteristics. The study population is a subset of the target population that has agreed to participate in the research. A subset of the whole study population makes up the study sample. A population's subjects are samples. A sample is a smaller (but hopefully representative) group of units from a population used to find population truths, according to Field (2005). The researcher employed the snowball sampling technique, Snowball sampling is a frequent qualitative research sampling approach used in medical science and a variety of social disciplines (Noy.C. 2009). It is a sampling approach in which one interviewee provides the researcher with the name of at least one additional potential interviewee, according to Bhattacharjee (2012). This interviewee then offers the name of at least one more possible interviewee, and so on, with the sample increasing like a snowball if more than one reference is made per interviewee.

Snowball sampling is a non-probability strategy used in research for unusual studies or research involving small groups of people.

To start with, few individuals were selected and the required information was collected from them. They then recommend other respondents similar to them who become part of the sample until the required number was reached. Because prostitution is illegal, secretive, and delicate, this approach of sampling was chosen. The method is well suited for a variety of research reasons, but it is especially useful when the study is focused on a sensitive problem, maybe involving a somewhat private matter, and thus requires insider knowledge to discover persons for study, as in the instance of child prostitution. Because child

prostitutes were difficult to identify and locate, snowball sampling was used. As a result, after a child prostitute has been discovered and questioned, she refers the researcher to another prostitute. A total of 103 girl prostitutes were used in the study, which was done via snowball sampling.

### **Instrumentation**

The study's data was gathered using a content-verified structured interview schedule and interview guide. An interview, according to Marczyk, et al. (2005) is a type of self-report that provides a very straightforward method of data collecting. It's a low-cost, high-efficiency method for gathering a wide range of data that doesn't require formal testing and can cover any number of content categories. An interview, according to Ary (2006), is used to collect data about individuals' thoughts, beliefs, and feelings about a topic in their own words. It obtains information about a particular topic through a series of questions in a formal situation. The interviews were organized for a limited size of population by the researcher. This helped the researcher obtain first-hand information from the respondents on a one-on-one basis. The researcher also had the chance to obtain in-depth information from the respondents and deviation from respondents was avoided since exact responses were required. The interview method was chosen again because it was more time efficient, allowed the researchers to create a relationship with the respondent, allowed for more in-depth information to be collected, allowed for interviewer observation, and allowed the interviewer to get visual signals.

For the qualitative portion of the study, the researcher employed an interview guide, which is just a list of the high-level subjects that would be covered in the interview, as well as the high-level questions that must be answered for each



theme. To make it easier to reference, the instructions were kept to one page. The guide assisted the researcher in focusing and organizing her stream of thought and questioning.

The quantitative section of the study used a structured interview schedule, which was simply a list containing a series of structured questions designed to help gather information concerning child prostitution from prostitutes. Using an interview calendar made this much easier. It also increases the likelihood of obtaining trustworthy data or information. It allowed the researcher to acquire more information. The researcher used the timetable to fill in the blanks with information gleaned from the interview.

The structured interview program was divided into four stages. 5 out of 5 stars to assess economic, socio-cultural, and child prostitution involvement levels, likert-type scales (a type of rating scale) ranging from "Very low" to "Very high" were constructed in Part one. Respondents can indicate their level of agreement or opinion on an issue by selecting one of several options on a rating scale. Part two examined the social, economic determinants/factors of child prostitution. Part Three dealt with levels of involvement of girl in prostitution as well as various strategies of combating prostitution. To analyze various prostitution-fighting strategies, a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" was devised, as well as a five-point rating scale ranging from "very low" (1) to "very high" (5) to assess their level of involvement.

**Table 3: Interpretations of Likert-type Scales**

Ratings	Interval	National, Community and Victims support	Level of involvement and Contributing factors
5	4.45 - 5.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
4	3.45 - 4.44	Agree	High
3	2.45 - 3.44	Somewhat Agree	Moderately High
2	1.45- 2.44	Disagree	Low
1	1.00 - 1.44	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Source: Author's Construct, 2013.

**Validity**

According to Patton (2002), validity and reliability are the two most important factors to consider when organizing a study, analyzing outcomes, and evaluating data quality. The legitimacy of the methods and data are usually used to judge the importance of research.

Validity is tied to the question of whether we're measuring the right things (Kinnear, & Taylor, 1996). Simply simply, validity refers to the ability of a researcher to produce accurate and dependable results (McBurney, & White, 2004). When doing research in a variety of ways, it is suggested that validity be considered the most important prerequisite (Bryman, & Bell, 2007). It is critical to be able to draw valid results and make valid generalizations when doing experiments (Malhotra, & Birks, 2007). Validity, according to Yin (2009), refers to a set of tests that can be used to evaluate the quality of a research design. The four tests are construct validity, internal validity, external

validity, and reliability. The researchers' supervisors guaranteed content validity, whereas the researcher ensured face validity.

### **Pre-testing**

The purpose of pre-testing was to help remove ambiguous items from the and interview schedules. Pre-testing of the interview schedules help to unearth the reliability of the instrument in measuring what it was intended for. Pre-testing was done in the Cape Coast Metropolis of the Central Region which has similar characteristics with the study area. The researcher used the tested instrument to fine-tune the items in the question in order to measure what was desired. Furthermore, the researcher avoided things with two barrels, which could have diverted respondents from delivering the correct response to the items. The researcher avoided using leading questions as much as possible to avoid distracting the instrument from measuring what was intended (Ghauri & Grönhaug, 2005).

### **Reliability**

Dependability, according to Bryman and Bell (2007), is linked to the research topic and whether the study's findings can be repeated. Merriam (1998) backs up this argument, emphasizing that dependability refers to the replicability of a study. According to Mohajan (2017), in order to be dependable, a study's conclusion or measurement must be consistent and free of measurement mistakes. This means that if someone were to repeat your study using the same procedures as you did, the results and conclusions would be the same (Yin, 2009). This refers to repeating the study rather than conducting a similar study with a different case, as the author notes. According to Yin (2009), one should make it a habit to operationalize as many components of the process

as possible, and the research should be carried out as if someone were always monitoring and examining your job. A Cronbach alpha coefficient of 0.70, according to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), is regarded reliable.

As a result, the data collected was meticulously documented in order to make the study as reliable as possible, and the same interview schedule was used throughout the study to provide a foundation for conducting coherent interviews that could easily be replicated by other researchers if they used the same schedule for the same study in the same setting.

The Cronbach alpha co-efficient was employed to test the reliability co-efficient to determine the items' internal consistency. This was done with Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) version 20.0. The degrees of involvement had an alpha value of 0.856, while the methods at the national, community, and victim assistance levels had alpha values of 0.856, 0.872, and 0.770, respectively. As a result, according to Sekaran and Bougie (2010)'s literature, the instruments were dependable.

### **Data Sources**

For the study, data was gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data is information gathered by a researcher in order to answer research questions.

Primary data for this study came from a planned interview schedule and interview guide that were given to the girl prostitutes in order for them to provide specific responses to research questions.

Secondary data sources included research reports, annual reports, textbooks, statistics data, and internet resources from emerald, SAGE publications, Science Direct, and others. These materials provided direction and

information to the researcher on how to cope with child prostitution in Ghana's Western Region.

### **Data Collection Procedure**

According to Polit and Beck (2004), data collection is the gathering of information needed to address a study problem. Quantitative data was collected using a structured interview guide. Structured data gathering comprises asking a pre-determined series of questions that are often answered in a specific order. Respondents were given a variety of response alternatives to choose from. Data collecting that is structured improves objectivity. Objectivity refers to the degree to which two different researchers can arrive at identical ratings or make similar observations about the same topic. It also generates data that is straightforward to analyze (Polit & Beck 2004).

A letter from the University of Cape Coast's Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension introducing the researcher to some of the respondents was acquired to make data collecting easier. Key respondents were contacted again, as needed, to explain the purpose of the study and gain their support for the data collection. The researcher and a trained assistant went out into the field to collect data. After six months of intensive preliminary investigations, a follow-up call was made to the participants in some selected municipalities in the western region of Ghana. In two months, interview schedules were administered to a total of 103 respondents face to face. Out of these 103 respondents 30 (15 of them below age 18 and 15 above age 18) respondents were identified and later contacted for an in-depth interview using interview guide for the qualitative aspect of the research.

## Data Analysis

The process of drawing conclusions and articulating findings of a study in words is known as data analysis (Creswell, 2005). The quantitative data was edited, coded, and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Service Solution (SPSS). The data was analyzed using non-parametric statistical methods. Non-parametric tests, often known as distribution-free tests, make no or few assumptions on the shape or properties of the population distribution from which the sample was drawn.

- For objective (1), descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were employed to analyze factors relevant to respondents' demographic, sociocultural, and economic backgrounds.
- Furthermore, objective (2) which sought to describe the levels of involvement of children in prostitution was computed using descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages.
- Objective (3) which sought to examine the factors that lead girls into prostitution and sustain the stay of the girls in prostitution was analysed using means, standard deviations, cross tabulation.
- Objective (4) which sought to analyse the perception of prostitutes about possible ways of curbing the issues of child prostitution in Ghana.

The qualitative data obtained was analysed using the inductive method specifically employing the content analysis method. Analyzing data with little or no predetermined theory, structure, or framework is known as the inductive method. It derives the structure analysis from actual data, making it ideal for situations when little or no information on the investigated phenomenon is



available (Walliman, 2005). The interview conducted for the qualitative research were recoded and transcribed. The researcher then sorted those data into range of categories and identified themes emerging from the data. The qualitative data analysis was the used to triangulate and corroborate the findings from the quantitative study.

**Table 4: Summary of Statistical Tools for Analysing each Specific Objective**

Specific Objectives	Statistical Tools for Analysis
One (1)	Frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations,
Two (2)	Means, Frequencies and percentages
Three (3)	Means, Standard Deviations, Cross tabulation,
Four (4)	Frequencies, percentages, means, standard deviations

Source: Author's Construct, 2014

**Ethical Issues**

Informed consent, anonymity and confidentiality, and protecting respondents' privacy were among the ethical problems addressed during the fieldwork experience. The researcher had a conversation with each respondent to ensure that they were given informed permission. Each respondent was told of the study's purpose during the conversation, and their confidentiality and anonymity were ensured by the fact that their names were not asked on the research materials. Respondents were provided with sufficient information about the study's objectives, the potential benefits and drawbacks of participating in the study, and the researcher's credibility, ensuring that they gave their informed permission.

It was hoped that by providing precise and thorough information, respondents would understand the research's objective and procedures and actively elect to participate. Respondents were also told that they had the option of withdrawing or refusing to answer specific questions, as well as deciding what information they didn't want to share. All sources of data and information were properly credited.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the results of the study in relation to the specific objectives. These were describing the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of girls involved in prostitution, examining the factors that lead girls into prostitution and sustain the stay of the girls in prostitution, identifying the levels of involvement of children involved in prostitution. Others include, analyse the perception of prostitutes about possible ways of curbing the issues of child prostitution in Ghana.

#### Demographic, Social, Cultural and Economic Characteristics

This section discusses the results on the demographic, socio-cultural and economic characteristics. Variables discussed include age at last birthday, age of start of prostitution, ethnicity of the girls, highest level of formal education, current economic status of the girls, residential status of the girls and who they live with, parent/guardian awareness of their involvement in prostitution, the type of parenthood the girls were born into, the current marital status of parents/guardians, current occupation of parent / guardian, current economic status of parent/guardian, highest level of education of your parent / guardian and characteristics of the household the girls belong to.

#### Respondents' Age

As revealed in Table (5) the mean age of respondents in the study at their last birthday was 23.49 years with 24 percent of them being below 18 years, and more than half (53.3%) being less than 22 years. This indicates that there are child prostitutes in the research area. The findings of the study are comparable

to those of the Street Academy report (2008), which found that in the coastal districts of Ghana's Central Region, females aged 20 to 26 dominated prostitution. Having more than 1 out of every 5 prostitute below 18 years during the survey presents serious situation that has implications for their future engagements and progress in their personal development.

**Table 5: Respondents' Age at last Birthday**

Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 18	24	23.3
18 – 20	33	30.0
21-30	38	36.9
31 – 40	7	6.8
41 – 50	1	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014, n = 103, Mean Age = 23.49 years, S.D = 5.95

The girls interviewed during the focus group discussions were put in two groups, (those who are still beneath the age of eighteen (18) years and those who started below 18 years but are now above 18). The two groups compared their experiences, views, perceptions, push and pull factors of child prostitution. In this study, the first group was between the ages of fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) while second group was in the age category of 18 and 25. The findings of the study matched those of Shared Hope International (2007), which said that the average age of entry into prostitution in the United States is 11-14 years old, albeit this age is decreasing. Other research has found the same thing. According to statistics, the average age of entry into prostitution for females in the United States was 12 to 14 years old (Boxill & Richardson, 2007; Clawson, 2009; Estes

& Weiner, 2001, Gray, 2005; Williams & Frederick, 2009). The following research findings point to reasons for the increased demand for younger child prostitutes: Sex offenders have raised the overall demand for "virgins" or prepubescent minors due to a fear of contracting AIDS or other sexually transmissible infections (STIs) from older prostitutes (Hanna, 2002; Hughes, 2005; Kreston, 2005).

### Age at start of prostitution

The age distribution of the prostitutes at the start of prostitution indicates that (71.8%) of the respondents started between 16-17 years (Table 5). Only 29 (28.2%) of the respondents started prostitution between 12-15 years. The mean age of start of prostitution was 16.37 years. The indication therefore was that a majority of the respondents started prostitution between 16-17 years.

**Table 6: Age of start of Prostitution**

Years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
16 – 17	74	71.8
12 – 15	29	28.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, Mean age of start of prostitution = 16.37 years S.D = 1.52 years

The study's findings are comparable to those of Farley et al. (2011), who found that the average age of introduction into prostitution in the United States is 12 to 14 years old. Similarly, the average age of victims of child prostitution with whom the program came into touch was 15 years old. However, the majority of these young people claim to have been involved in prostitution for a long period before seeking help or encountering the correctional facilities.

From the above, it is obvious that child abuse occurs for children below 18. These forms of child abuse may involve sexual abuse, particularly chronic abuse beginning at a young age, as revealed in this study.

According to most of the girls below eighteen years, they had been in the trade for about 1 to 2 years. On the other hand, those aged above eighteen had been in the practice for 3 to 5 years. There were quite a few girls who had been in the trade for less than a year in the region; these were mostly foreigners and Ghanaian migrants. These girls gave various reasons of coming to the region for such engagements. For instance, a respondent below 18 years had this to say:

“... I have been for in child prostitution the last eight months and this was because of the oil discovery and influx of business. It has increased men’s demand for sex and made the business very lucrative because of influx of male foreigners and migrant workers from Ghana and African countries who were usually singles or had left their wives at home and needed their sexual desire (biological need) satisfied.”

They claim these males have higher purchasing power and need to be entertained and distressed after the hard day’s work. Generally, it could be inferred that the duration of practice for these girls in Takoradi ranges between one year and five years at most, however a few opined seven months especially the migrant sex workers. Most foreign and migrant prostitutes are in Takoradi for prostitution because they perceive that the oil discovery has brought an influx of males mostly single or separated who required services at a higher price making prostitution in Takoradi lucrative business. Child prostitutes



shared the view that the oil discovery had increased the demand of their services and made their business more lucrative.

Around one million children, usually young females, are forced into prostitution each year, according to the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (WCACSEC, 1996), with estimates ranging from one million to ten million. Between 2003 and 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducted a survey that found that 65 to 75 percent of trafficking victims were females, 15 to 25 percent were minors, and 15% were males (UNODC, 2009).

#### **Ethnic group of child prostitutes**

The largest ethnic group (33.5%) involved in prostitution in the study area are the Fantes (Table 6). This was closely followed by the Akyem/Ashanti/Brong (23.3%). This is not surprising since the area is predominantly an Akan speaking area. It was interesting to note that the difference in frequency between the two ethnic groups (Fantes and Akyem/Ashanti/Brong) is only 10 (10.2%), indicating a slight difference between the two groups. Other closely related ethnic groups of child prostitutes in the study area are those of the Ga/Adangbe/Krobo (14.6%) and the Dagomba/Frafra/Sisala (11.6%). Other ethnic groups of girls in the study area include the Ahanta/Wassa (6.7%), the Ewe (1.9%) and also significant number of non-Ghanaians (4.6%). Having about a third of the respondents coming from the coastal areas concurs with assertions by Akyeampong (1997) and Adomako (2007) that most prostitutes at the coastal communities believed that since they do not have skills go into farming, fishing and other jobs, they must use their “cocoa between their legs” to make a living.

**Table 7: Ethnic Group of child Prostitutes**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Fante	34	33.5
Akyem/Ashanti/Brong	24	23.3
Ga/Adangbe/Krobo	15	14.6
Dagomba/Frafra/Sisala	12	11.6
Ahanta/Wassa	7	6.7
Non Ghanaians	5	4.6
Guan	4	3.8
Ewe	2	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103,

Another important element considered in the FGD was ethnic and religious backgrounds. Among the 30 interviewees, 12 were Fanti, 4 - Ahanta, 4 - Ashanti, 4 - Krobo, 4 - Ga and 2 - Dagomba. However, the Fanti and Ahanta girls are indigence of Western Region whiles the Ga and Krobo are migrants from the Greater Accra Region. Also, Dagomba girls are also migrants from the Ashanti and Northern region respectively. Although majority of the interviewees (65.7%) were Christians by birth. They iterated that they only attended church occasionally; sometimes Christmas, New Year, weddings or funerals. Their occasional/ceremonial church going attitude could have had and influence on their moral character as the doctrines of Christianity are strongly against prostitution.

### Highest Level of Education

Result in Table 8 indicates that 37.9 percent of the respondents were formally educated up to JHS and 29 have completed SHS representing 28.2%. According to Buadi (2000), the majority of respondents in the area had some type of formal education, with the majority of them being JSS/JHS/Middle School Certificate leavers. The ages of the FGD indicates that girls below age eighteen were either school dropout or Junior High School (JHS) graduates with no vocational training or any form of apprenticeship. Therefore, with respect to educational background, a respondent indicated that I am from a family of eight and each one for him/her self.

**Table 8: Highest Level of Education**

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
SSS/SHS	29	28.2
JSS/JHS	39	37.9
Primary	27	26.2
Never been to school	8	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103,

### Current Economic Status of the Girls

From the Table 9, it was apparent that majority of the respondents do not consider their economic status as satisfactory. About 77 percent rated their economic status as very poor (39.8%) or poor (36.9%). This was a clear indication that the economic statuses of more than three-quarters of the respondents (76.7%) were either poor or very poor. Out of the total, only 22 (21.4%) of the girls described their economic status as moderately rich.

However, one respondent (1.0%) was fairly rich, and another one (1.0%) reported to be very rich. This result suggests that majority of the respondents fall within poor and very poor economic status hence do not consider themselves as either rich nor very rich. This situation has implication for seeking alternative sources of livelihoods, whether decent or indecent. Thus the perceptions of poor economic status could be one of the reasons why they wish to enrich themselves through prostitution. Bakirci (2007) went on to say that there was a direct correlation between the exploitation of young girls and women's low economic and social position.

**Table 9: Perceived Current Economic Status of the Respondent**

Economic status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very poor	41	39.8
Poor	38	36.9
Moderately rich	22	21.4
Fairly rich	1	1.0
Very rich	1	1.0
Total	103	100

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

### **Current Residence of the Respondents**

Table 10 presents the current residence of the girls. Majority of the girls (56.3%) stay in Non-residential areas; with 23.3% of them staying in slums and 13.6% of them residing in brothels. Only 6.8% of the respondents were said to be residing in residential areas. Brents and In Nevada, Hausbeck (2005) did research on violence and authorized brothel prostitution. They discovered that during the previous century, proponents of brothels and non-residential areas

have stated that brothels provide the safest and most sanitary outlet for prostitution. Prostitutes even regard brothels as a safer alternative to anti-prostitution legislation. Indeed the findings by Brents and Hausbeck (2005) seem to confirm to some extent why girl prostitutes prefer to stay in brothel and non-residential areas.

**Table 10: Current Residence of the Girls**

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Non-Residential area	58	56.3
Slum	24	23.3
Brothel	14	13.6
Residential area	7	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103,

**Who the Girls reside with at Home**

Many of the respondents (40.8%) live alone without any parental or guardian support (Table 11). Only 22.3% of the girls reside with guardians. The results indicated that only 4.9% of the girls stay with both parents, fewer (7.8%) of girl prostitutes live with their father alone than those living with their mother only (16.5%). Also, 7.8% of the girls live with friends. Prostitution was publicly practiced on the streets and less openly practiced in the brothels and public houses of Ireland's towns and cities, according to Luddy (2006).

**Table 11: Who the girls reside with at Home**

Who they with	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Live alone	42	40.8
Guardian	23	22.3
Mother only	17	16.5
Father only	8	7.8
Live with friends	8	7.8
Both parents	5	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

The most of the girls interviewed during the FGD were coming from a broken homes. Some live with a single parent (usually a mom), an elder sister, aunt, guardian or friend. None of the girls interviewed lived with both parents. Researchers discovered that family closeness, strong family bonds, and parental support are greater protective factors for girls than for boys when it comes to protective factors (Kroneman, Loeber, Hipwell, & Koot, 2009; Hartman et al., 2009)

The place of abode of the interviewees was imperative to this study. In response to this question, respondents indicated very interesting environment they lived in. Majority of the respondents indicated the following: “we live with a single parent an elder sister, aunt, guardian or friend” Another posited: “I live lived in a slum, non-structured (out layered) non-residential areas” And again, another said “my madam has brothels or mid-shift wooden structured she has for us. But sometimes I go to my village”. These responses point to the fact that all the respondents admitted a poor economic, status in terms of shelter, as a



reason for staying in such environment. Inference from the response shows that girls interviewed appeared to come from broken homes, where some lived with single parents or guardian (usually a female). According to most studies (Kroneman, Loeber, Hipwell, & Koot, 2009; Hartman et al., 2009), family attachment, strong family bonds, and parental support are greater protective factors for girls than for boys. This means that girls who have familial support are more likely to avoid 'corrupt' views.

### **Parent/Guardian Awareness of their Involvement in Prostitution**

The respondents were questioned if their parents were aware of their engagement in prostitution in this section. 15.5 percent of respondents stated their parents or guardians were aware of their prostitution, according to the study data (Table 12). This conclusion was comparable to those seen in Pakistan, Baluchistan, and India's North West Frontier provinces, where the fate of prostitutes' daughters is reported to be forced into prostitution due to social or public disapproval (Patkar, 1991). However, the majority of child prostitutes (84.5%) stated that their parents/guardians were unaware of their daughters' involvement in child prostitution. Thus, less than 2 out of every 10 respondent did not disclose their practices to their parents or guardians.

**Table 12: Parent/Guardian awareness of their involvement in prostitution**

<b>Parent/Guardian awareness</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
No	87	84.5
Yes	16	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

### Parent/Guardian Support of their Involvement in Prostitution

With regards to whether parent/guardian supported the child involvement in prostitution as presented in Table (13), the field data revealed in the negative that parents/guardian (75.0%) did not in any way support their involvement in prostitution. However, 25.0% of parents/guardians of girls supported their involvement in prostitution. This indicates that even those parents or guardians who were aware of their wards involvement in prostitution, only a quarter of them were in support.

**Table 13: Parent/Guardian Support of Their Involvement in Prostitution**

Parent/Guardian Support	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No	12	75.0
Yes	4	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 16,

### Type of Parenthood Girls Born Into

As to the type of family the child was born into, 36.9% of the girls came from a wedded marital home. This was also same for those born through single parenting (36.9%). The remaining 26.2% were born through customary marriage (Table 14).

**Table 14: Type of Parenthood Girls born Into**

Parenthood	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Wedded marriage	38	36.9
Single	38	36.9
Customary marriage	27	26.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

### Current Marital Status of Parents

The data gathered shows the current marital status of the parent of the respondents Table (15). Majority of the girls revealed that their parents were separated (36.9%). Meaning that they had married before but due to some unresolved issues, parents have disjointed themselves. On the other hand, 25.2% of the girl prostitutes revealed that parents have entirely divorced from their marriage relationship. This may have negative or positive influence on the character traits of girls. Thus, the pains of a divorced parent could lead the child to form some deviant behaviour such as child prostitution as an escape mechanism to deal with stress or to seek attention and acceptance from others (to fill the gap) which she is not getting from her parents.

**Table 15: Current Marital Status of Parents**

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Separated	38	36.9
Divorced	26	25.2
Single	20	19.4
Married	19	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

### Occupation of Parent/Guardian

With regards to the occupation of parent/guardian as presented in Table (16), the overwhelming majority of the parents/guardians are traders (58.3%). This was closely followed by the Farmers/Fishermen /Fishmongers/Palm wine tappers (12.6%). It is also interesting to note that 8.7% of parents and guardians had no job. The above table was an indication that though parents/guardians of

girls are involved in various trading activities, yet there might be other circumstances that might have pushed the girls into prostitution. The results also show that only a few parents and guardians engage in occupation such as engineering and civil servants.

**Table 16: Occupation of Parent/Guardian**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Artisans	4	3.9
Civil servants	4	3.9
Driver	5	4.9
Engineers	2	1.9
Farmers/Fishermen/Fishmongers/Palm wine tappers	13	12.6
Private security	1	1.0
Restaurant attendant	1	1.0
Retired civil servants	4	3.9
Traders	60	58.3
Unemployed	9	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

**Marital Status of Parent and their Current Economic Status**

Observing Table 17 using cross tabulation, it was revealed that 17.6% of the current economic status of the married parents/guardians was very poor, 58.8% were poor, and 23.5 percent were moderately rich, while none of the respondents was neither rich nor very rich. The result further indicates that most of the single parents (60%) were very poor, 6 of them representing 25% were

poor, 4 of the single parents, representing 15% were moderately rich while there was no rich or very rich single parents. This is however worrying when compared to reasons why the girls indulge into prostitution. From data gathered, it might be a case that majority of the parents/guardians cannot cater for the girls' welfare because of their poor financial capability.

**Table 17: Marital status of Parent and their Current Economic Status**

Current state of parent		Current economic status					Total
		Very Poor	Poor	Moderately Rich	Rich	Very Rich	
Married	Frequency	3	10	4	0	0	17
	Percent	17.6	58.8	23.5	0.0	0.0	100.0
Divorced	Frequency	10	10	6	0	0	26
	Percent	38.5	38.5	23.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Separated	Frequency	16	12	8	1	1	38
	Percent	42.1	31.6	21.1	2.6	2.6	100.0
Single	Frequency	12	6	4	0	0	22
	Percent	60.0	25.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Total	Frequency	41	38	22	1	1	103
	Percent	39.8	36.9	21.4	1.0	1.0	100.0

df =16, p-value = 13.031,  $X^2= 0.670$

Statistics from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWAC) from 2005 show that more than three-quarters of street children asked stated both parents were financially unable to support them.

#### **Level of Education of Parent/Guardian**

Results from the study as shown in Table 18 indicate that as majority of the parents have never been to school. Thus, out of the total sample of 103, 34 representing (33.0 %) of the respondents' parents/guardians have never been to school. Only 11 representing 10.7 percent of the respondents' parents had

tertiary education background, while 22.3, 17.5, and 16.5 percentages of respondents' parents/guardians had SSS/SHS, Primary and JSS/JHS educational levels respectively.

**Table 18: Level of Education of Parent/Guardian**

<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Never been to school	34	33.0
Primary	18	17.5
JSS/JHS	17	16.5
SSS/SHS	23	22.3
Tertiary	11	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

### **Household Characteristic of Girl Prostitutes**

It's also worth noting that the youngest household member's average age was 11.76 years, indicating that he or she was in or nearing puberty. Puberty/adolescence stage as explained by Erikson's stages of psychosocial development theory is clouded with issues of identity vs role confusion. According to Erikson, teenagers either improve their concept of self by testing roles and then combining them to form a single identity, or they get confused about who they are (1963).

Thus girls at this stage are vulnerable to exploitation, can bow to negative peer pressure to conform to social vices just to belong, as well as becoming a prey to prostitution in their quest of identity crisis (Table 18). The difference between the sexes of both males and females as elder siblings shows 31.1 percent for males and 68.9 percent for females; Adults as explained by



Albert Bandura's social learning theory (1977) serve as model for children. The older females siblings being a majority could have served as a role model for the younger girls to imitate their older female sibling's negative behaviours (promiscuity, drinking, smoking, indecent dressing) whether explicitly or implicitly, accidentally or incidentally and test these roles out of curiosity leading them in to prostitution.

The mean age of oldest sibling was 26.29 years, at this age; they are still in the early adult stage mostly struggling to deal with the crisis of intimacy vs isolation as explained by Erickson's psychosocial development theory. The demand of this stage comes with its own social, emotional and psychological repercussions. Their pre occupation with the demands of their crisis leaves little room for them to guide and supervise their younger sibling's sexual behaviours to curb prostitution. On the other hand this crisis the younger adults have to deal with may directly or indirectly serve as another avenue from which their younger sibling's emulate these sexual behaviours (especially early initiation into sex or sustaining them in to prostitution i.e. big sister syndrome). This is supported by Argys and her co-authors' research on birth order and risky adolescent behavior, which hypothesized that older siblings might expose younger siblings to various vices by bringing them along when they hang out with their older friends. By cracking down on firstborns but running out of energy when the later born reaches adolescence, parents may unintentionally or intentionally contribute to younger sibling delinquency.

**Table 19: Household Characteristic of Girl Prostitutes**

<b>Sex of youngest household member</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Females	55	53.4
Males	48	46.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age of youngest household member (years)</b>		
11 – 20	55	53.4
1 – 10	43	41.7
21 – 30	5	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>
Mean age of youngest household member (years)	11.76 (years)	S.D = 5.65 (years)
<b>Sex of oldest sibling</b>		
Females	71	68.9
Males	32	31.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>
Mean age of youngest household member (years)	26.29 years	S.D = 3.35 (years)

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103

### **Reasons which Lead and Sustaining Girls in Child Prostitution**

#### **Reasons which led the Girls into Child Prostitution**

Various reasons are presented for which people are engaged in prostitution. Table 19 presents different reasons that respondents' claim about what led them into prostitution. The major reasons responsible for girls engaging in prostitution are due to financial problems accounting for 81.6

percent of the total population, and peer pressure, also accounting for 38.8 percent. Only 3.9 percent of the girls are actually without parents; a clear indication that other factors influenced the girls decision to join prostitution. When compared to the Street Academy report (2008), which said that child prostitution is both an economic and a social concern, the conclusions of this study ring true. It was a social evil that degraded the children's morals by robbing them of their innocence.

Nearly 3.5 million women work as commercial sex workers in India, with 1.2 million of them under the age of 18. In India, child prostitution was a serious issue. They are forced into the trade at an early age, often even before puberty, and are thus unaware of the trap they are falling into. Homelessness, family breakdown, peer pressure, poverty, drug or alcohol misuse, educational underachievement, or unemployment are all factors that lead to young people into this situation, according to Nooe et al. (2010). Going out gets difficult.

**Table 20: Reasons which led the Girls into Child Prostitution**

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Financial problems	84	81.6
Negative peer pressure	40	38.8
Lack of parental control	26	25.2
Lack of educational support	15	14.6
Early sexual initiation/Addiction	12	11.7
Broken home	11	10.7
Exploration/Curiosity/Fun	10	9.7
Unemployment	7	6.8
Single parents	7	6.8
Domestic violence	6	5.8
Support children/Siblings	6	5.8
No parents	4	3.9

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, multiple responses

Financial causes have sometimes warranted the entry into the practice of prostitution. A discussant during the FGDs indicated that

“My inability to pay fees, buy books or other stationaries requested by teachers coupled with lack of parental support led to my poor performance in school, which further demoralized me to continue schooling.

The qualitative analysis indicates that the girls are aware of society regarding prostitutes as bad, uncultured operate in secrecy. This made them to be seen as outcast and referring to them with all sort of derogatory words. For instance, a respondent posited that “... hardly anyone calls us by our own names, they use all kinds unsavoury names to refer to us.” This argument really buttresses the opinion of the society that the involvement of children in prostitution cannot be tolerated within the society.

However, the discussants indicated that their peers in the society who do not know how they get their gifts and money perceived them as being trendy (eye open), whenever they dressed in provocative clothes. This tends to encourage them to continue doing the prostitute business.

The perceptions of these girls ran counter to the TVPA's clear definition of commercial sexual activity, which states, "commercial sex act means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person" (Sec. 103[3]), as well as the UN definition, which states, "the act of engaging or offering the services of a child to perform sexual acts for money or other considerate consideration" (Sec. 103[3]). (Lim, 1998). Kelly et al. (1995) explained this discrepancy in definition by stating that children involved in commercial sexual activity may define their activities very differently than

clients and pimps, or older sex workers, or even social workers, cops, or people involved in intervention or prevention services (Kelly et al., 1995).

Child prostitution and pornography were forbidden and punishable offenses. No matter what role the children play in the sexual activities, they must be treated as victims and witnesses. They must not be considered "sex workers" or "child laborers." Viewing child sexual exploitation as a form of labor may help to legalize it in some nations while also increasing kid pain (Bakirci, 2004, 2005). Similarly, giving the child money or other perks is only a technique for the offender to gain more power and influence over the youngster, as well as to justify his actions (Bakirci, 2004, 2005).

#### **Reasons Sustaining Girls in Child Prostitution**

Although a number of factors could cause girls to start practicing prostitution, some different factors may be responsible for keeping them in the prostitute business. In this section, the factors that could promote their continuity of the prostitution are discussed. The reasons sustaining girls in child prostitution are presented in (Table 20). The majority (79.6%) of the girls are also sustained in their trade (keep practicing prostitution) due to financial problems. The implication here is that more than one third of the respondents keep practicing prostitution in order to solve their financial challenges since they earn money from such act. It was observed however that girls below eighteen years identified pleasure, fun, curiosity and exploration as one of the reasons for sustaining the prostitution acts.

They further disclosed that the charge for sex has increased significantly as compared to their native countries, regions or towns. To them, the fact that no one knows them personally in the region too makes it easier for them to

engage in the trade full time openly without any fear of being noticed or stigmatised.

**Table 21: Reasons Sustaining Girls in Child Prostitution**

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Financial problems	82	79.6
Unemployment	20	19.4
Cater for children	19	18.4
Negative peer pressure	15	14.6
Source of livelihood	13	12.6
Sexual satisfaction	10	9.7
Exploration/Curiosity/Fun	7	6.8

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, multiple responses

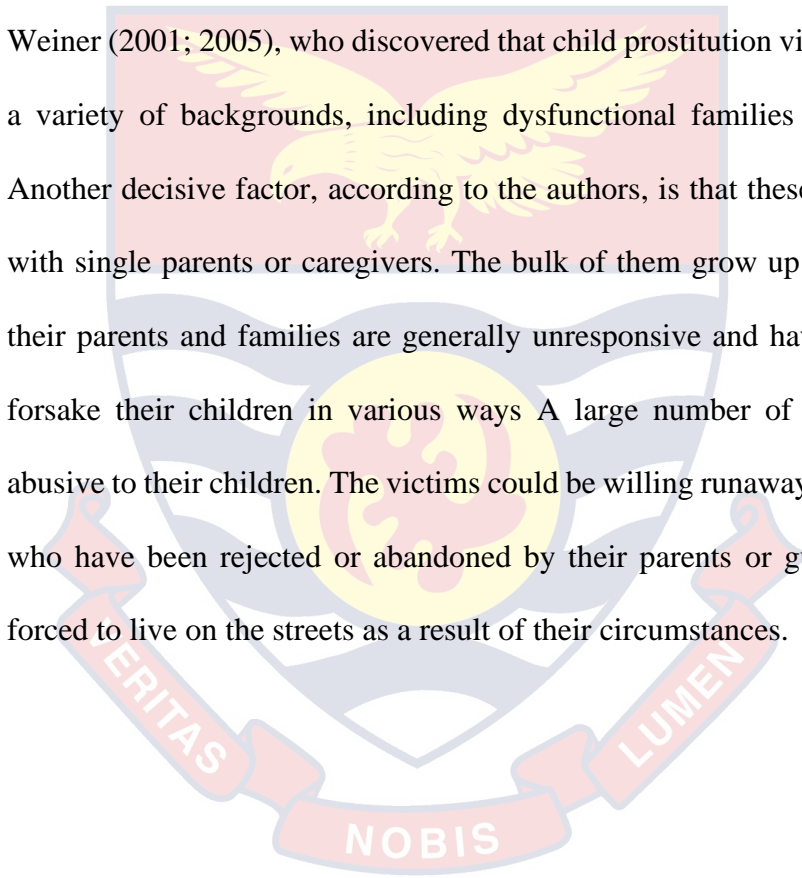
### **Social Factors that Lead and Sustain Girls in Child Prostitution**

Many social factors lead and sustain girls into prostitution as presented in Table (20). Generally, respondents considered social factors to have a moderately high contribution to the girls' entry into child prostitution. (Composite mean = 3.37, S.D = 0.24). Four main social factors that the girls viewed to be high in leading girls into child prostitution are poor parental support (Mean = 4.25, S.D = 1.07), negative peer pressure (Mean = 4.17, S.D = 1.17), weak parental control (Mean = 4.09, S.D = 0.99) and early sexual initiation (Mean = 4.07, S.D = 1.30). However, the single most important social factor that the girls said it is very high on the list of factors which lead to child prostitution is single parenthood (Mean = 4.53, S.D = 0.86). The finding of the study also revealed that largely the social factors have high contribution towards sustaining girls in child prostitution (Composite mean = 3.47, S.D = 0.27). It is



worth noting that the six most important social factors which gave high contribution in sustaining girls in child prostitution are single parenthood (Mean = 4.39, S.D = 0.84), poor parental control (Mean = 4.36, S.D = 0.81), negative peer pressure (Mean = 4.18, S.D = 1.05), living in risk environments such as brothels (Mean = 4.14, S.D = 0.83), weak parental control (Mean = 4.12, S.D = 1.11) and teenage pregnancy (Mean = 4.03, S.D = 1.01).

The study's findings support those of Clawson (2009) and Estes and Weiner (2001; 2005), who discovered that child prostitution victims come from a variety of backgrounds, including dysfunctional families and foster care. Another decisive factor, according to the authors, is that these youngsters live with single parents or caregivers. The bulk of them grow up in homes where their parents and families are generally unresponsive and have a tendency to forsake their children in various ways. A large number of parents are also abusive to their children. The victims could be willing runaways or throwaways who have been rejected or abandoned by their parents or guardians and are forced to live on the streets as a result of their circumstances.



**Table 22: Social factors that lead and Sustain Girls into Prostitution**

Social factors	Leading		Sustaining	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S. D
Single parenthood	4.53	0.86	4.39	0.84
History of sexual abuse within families	2.84	0.97	2.99	0.96
Witnessing domestic violence on family members	3.17	0.87	2.77	1.27
Being a victim of domestic violence	2.91	0.99	2.85	1.12
Practices of prostitution among family members	2.86	1.01	3.50	1.05
Street children	3.63	1.00	3.84	1.14
Teenage pregnancy	3.62	1.12	4.03	1.01
School problem	2.96	1.12	3.59	0.93
History of alcohol and drug abuse in the family	1.95	0.82	2.48	0.89
Existence of child labour in the family	2.57	0.99	2.78	1.24
Working in risk environments e.g. bars, street, brothels	3.62	1.03	3.99	0.99
Living in risk environments e.g. small brothels	3.58	1.25	4.14	0.83
Negative peer pressure	4.17	1.17	4.18	1.05
Presence of adult prostitution in the family	3.90	0.94	2.87	1.07
Early sexual initiation	4.07	1.30	3.84	1.27
Existence of sex tourism	3.29	0.89	2.97	1.02
Radio and TV programmes	2.91	1.03	2.93	1.33
Weak parental control	4.09	0.99	4.12	1.11
Poor parental support	4.25	1.07	4.36	0.81
Social programmes in the community	2.41	1.09	2.71	0.94
Composite mean	3.37	0.24	3.47	0.27

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103. Means were calculated from a scale of 1 =

Very low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderately High, 4 = High, 5 = Very High

Taylor (2005) discovered that parents who discontinue their children's educational attainment, often with the children's consent and sometimes with their parents' consent, in the decision to stop attending school and go work in the city because of the opportunities the city provides, are also more likely to push their daughters into prostitution when city conditions deteriorate and they struggle.

Befriending and building an emotional connection with a child, and occasionally the family, to lessen the child's inhibitions for child sexual assault was known as youngster grooming. It entices minors into child trafficking, illegal activities including child prostitution, and the production of child pornography (Crosson-Tower, 2005). As a respondent puts it:

“Initially I did not know it was sexual. My family member directly or indirectly initiated me into prostitution as my aunt observed my interaction with men and brings me a lot of gifts and money which enabled me live a lavish life style. Sometimes I accompany my elder sister to meet the men; they give gifts to keep me entertained while my elder sister attends to her male friend(s). As I grew older my aunt sent me to buy alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, condoms which aroused my curiosity and quest to know what those items were used for. With time when they go out with this big sister in the company of other men, the aunt asked them to interact with me while she entertained her man and that is how I was introduced to men”.

When they sometimes complain to friends and relatives about being sexually harassed by the men they introduced them to, they explain in away or

say they have to tolerate them in order to behave like a lady; they gradually developed helplessness and condone this sexual harassment till it results into a habit. They feel disappointed, angry and disgusted at the sexual act. Moreover, their friends either threatens or consoles them by telling them that event is an initiation into adulthood and freedom to better life just like them, with time it becomes fun because of the money and gifts they get in return to buy things their friends cannot afford.

However, due to a lack of family support, some of the respondents stated that they were unable to pursue other viable business opportunities. For instance a respondent presented a scenario:

“... I would not have entered into this business but circumstances beyond my control pushed me to. Such circumstance includes broken home, single parenthood, school problems, unemployment, to support my parent / siblings / child (children)...”

### **Cultural factors that lead and Sustain Girls into Prostitution**

Table 23 indicate the ethnic factors lead and sustain girls in child prostitution. The study result shows that generally, the respondents viewed the cultural factors to be moderately high in leading girls into child prostitution (Composite mean = 3.02, S.D = 0.39). Among various cultural factors used in this study included exposure to pornography (Mean = 4.42, S.D = 0.73) and western culture through the media (Mean = 3.62, S.D = 1.09) are high on the list of factors that lead girls into child prostitution. Acceptable attitudes of men in the society towards polygamy (Mean = 2.87, S.D = 1.10) was also rated to be moderately high as a cultural factor which lead girls into child prostitution. With

respect to the cultural factors which sustain girls in child prostitution, the respondents largely rated the factors to be moderately high (Composite mean = 3.11, S.D = 0.33). Two most important cultural factors which the respondents rated high to be sustaining girls in child prostitution are exposure to western culture through the media (Mean = 4.23, S.D = 0.92) and exposure to pornography (Mean = 4.07, S.D = 0.88).

**Table 23: Cultural Factors that Lead and Sustain Girls into Prostitution**

Cultural factors	Leading		Sustaining	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
Exposure to pornography	4.42	0.73	4.07	0.88
Exposure to western culture through the media	3.62	1.01	4.23	0.92
Acceptable attitudes of men in the society towards polygamy	2.87	1.10	2.38	0.76
Female sexual mutilation	2.42	0.76	2.59	0.62
Early marriage	2.36	0.74	2.58	0.81
Puberty rites	2.39	0.69	2.81	0.88
Composite mean	3.02	0.39	3.11	0.33

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103. Means were calculated from a scale of 1 = Very low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderately High, 4 = High, 5 = Very High

Cultural factors contribute to child prostitution, according to Deisher, Farrow, Hope, and Litchfield (1989). The authors hypothesized that in some places where child prostitution was generally accepted, child prostitution regulations were either not enforced or were not enforced at all. Other male clients believe that children are less likely to contract HIV and sexually

transmitted diseases (STDs), and that sex workers' offspring are more likely to be prostituted.

The qualitative study corroborates these findings in one way or the other.

One of the prostitute above 18 years had this to say:

“...My parents passed away at a tender age, so lived with several relatives from time to time affecting significantly my educational career. Since completion of my JHS, I don't have anyone to help me further my education to either enrolled me in a vocational training or any form of apprenticeship ...”

It could be inferred from the responses from the FGD that, those above eighteen were mostly JHS graduates who could not continue to the Senior High School (SHS) due to lack of financial support from their parents/ guardians (poverty) or no placement in good schools because of poor grades. Others had gone through some form of vocational training formally, informally or non-formally and had not completed or had stopped abruptly due to lack of financial support. Those who struggled to complete their training cited lack of start-up capital to start their own business as the main cause for entering into prostitutions.

Another major theme addressed under the demographic data was the socio-cultural factors associated with child prostitution of interviewees during the FGDs. It is interesting to note that there came up interesting but very confidential pathways used by girl prostitution. The interview identified apprenticeships, the “big sister syndrome”, as key socio-cultural factor.

Apprenticeship “big sister syndrome” (practiced prostitution by a family member). A higher majority of the interviewees cited practices of prostitution in their family by an elder sister, an aunt, a neighbour who was a tenant in the



house or a next door neighbour who has also become more of a family member. Other interviewees too cited being sent on errands to men (who have been introduced to them earlier by their big sister) who sexually exploit/harass them for a reward/gift.

This family member directly or indirectly initiated them in to prostitution as they observed her interaction with men (initially did not know it was sexual) brings her a lot which enabled her lived a lavish life style they all admired and dreamed of. Narrating their story, interviewees claim that sometimes they accompanied this elder sister to meet the men, and given gifts to keep them entertained while attending to her male friends. As they grew older they were being sent by those elder sisters to buy alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, condoms which aroused their curiosity and quest to know what those items were used for.

Findings have proven that most at times when these girls go out with this big sister in the company of other men, the big sister ask them to interact with the other men while she entertained her man and that was how they began to befriend some of the men who show interest in them. When they initially complained of being sexually harassed, they were asked to be tolerant. They gradually developed helplessness and condone this sexual harassment till it results in sex which turns out to be rape. They feel disappointed, angry and disgusted at the sexual act. However, their sister either threatens or consoles them by telling them that event is an initiation in to adult hood and freedom to better life just like them, with time it becomes fun because of the money and gifts they get in return to buy things their friends cannot afford. Before long,

they begin to sleep with more than one or more men because of the desire to keep up the acquired lifestyle.

### Economic factors that lead and Sustain Girls into Prostitution

Table 24 show the economic factors that lead and sustain girls to engage in child prostitution. Specifically, the respondents rated as very high the economic factors which lead girls into child prostitution (Composite mean = 4.45, S.D = 0.23). From the result, unemployment (Mean = 4.62, S.D = 0.58), poverty (Mean = 4.62, S.D = 0.59), low family income level (Mean = 4.53, S.D = 0.57) and lack of family financial support (Mean = 4.46, S.D = 0.75) are four most important economic factors which are very high to lead girls into child prostitution. On the other hand, the respondents generally viewed the economic factors as high in sustaining girls in child prostitution (Composite mean = 4.00, S.D = 0.38).

**Table 24: Economic factors that lead and Sustain Girls into Prostitution**

Economic factors	Leading		Sustaining	
	Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D
Unemployment	4.62	0.58	4.71	0.60
Lack of family financial support	4.46	0.75	4.06	0.74
Poverty	4.62	0.59	4.49	0.65
Explosive business opportunities in the community	4.37	0.73	3.04	1.25
Low family income level	4.53	0.57	4.56	0.52
Sudden rise in the cost of living	4.31	0.67	3.43	0.79
Changes in the standard of living	4.19	0.66	3.67	1.23
Composite mean	4.45	0.23	4.00	0.38

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103. Means were calculated from a scale of 1 =

Very low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderately High, 4 = High, 5 = Very High

Among the economic factors, unemployment (Mean = 4.71, S.D = 0.60), low family income level (Mean = 4.56, S.D = 0.52) and poverty (Mean = 4.49, S.D = 0.65) are three main economic factors the respondents rated to be very high in sustaining girls in child prostitution.

The discussants buttress these findings during the FGDs. For instance, a discussant said: “I don’t have any educational background because my parents say they have no money to take me to school”. Another one also intimated “I don’t live with both parents. I have completed JHS since 2009 but due to financial constraints my parents could not help me continue though I passed successfully.”

Due to familial troubles, early marriage, and parental divorce, the majority of child prostitutes migrate from other regions in quest of work, according to a 2006 study by the Child Prostitution in Addis Ababa (CPAA). Poverty, the death of one or both parents, child trafficking, high repetition rates and school dropout rates, and a lack of understanding about the repercussions of engaging in commercial sex work are all factors that motivate young girls to do so. According to Steffensmeier and Allan (1996), significant pressures that are important to female routes into crime include victimization, role entrapment, economic marginality, and survival necessities.

... I don’t have any help from any relative at least to acquire a start-up capital but I need to survive and thus need income. This caused me to enter into child prostitution...

Prostitutes above eighteen however gave reasons such as unemployment, no skills to engage in trade, poverty, lack of financial support /

start-up capital, broken home / single parenthood and to support the family / siblings / child (children).

Indicating differences in the factors that push younger and older girls Regarding factors that pull (keep / make them stay) in prostitution, the girls enumerated:

...poverty, unemployment, lack of parental support, negative peer pressure (need to belong), habit acquired difficult to stop, keep coming back after little financial stress (escape zone), source of livelihood, to be able to take care of family / child (children), easy of acquiring money for good life (purchasing power), no skills for alternative job means...

The girls' perspective backs up Anania's (2003) claim that poverty is a factor in keeping children in prostitution, stating that for many poor families, a child is property whose only redeeming feature is her selling price.

Some reasons such as habit difficult to stop, source of livelihood, to be able to take care/support the family/ child (children) were common/ unique with older prostitutes. While reasons such as easy means of acquiring money for good life (high purchasing power), lack of parental support no skills for alternative job was unique to younger prostitutes. However, both girls under eighteen and above in prostitution interestingly share the view that the current oil discovery has increased the demand of their services and made their business more lucrative, thus, given them another fresh / new motivational reason to want to stay in prostitution in addition to their addition retaining factors.

In a study conducted by Giusta, Di-Tomaso, and Str (2004), motivations for entering prostitution were found to differ from those found in other "higher" segments of the industry, such as those found in Chapkis (1997) study of sex workers in parlors, escort agencies, and call girls, for whom there appeared to

be more choice both in entering the business, and in exiting it. Proof of varying working conditions in different sectors of the industry was also revealed in Giusta, et al. (2004). Some sex workers campaigned for decriminalization or legalization, noting the experiences of nations that have a more open stance toward prostitution and provide legal protection to workers (Australia and the Netherlands).

### **Level of Involvement of Girls in Child Prostitution**

The number of customers served by the girls, their level of involvement in prostitution during the year, the types of clients served by the girls, and the amount of the girls' involvement in prostitution are all examined in this portion of Chapter Four.

### **Number of Customers Serviced by the Girl**

The number of customers served by the juvenile prostitutes is depicted in Table 23. Most of the respondents (86.4%) serviced between one to five clients on daily basis. The mean number of clients serviced by the girls daily is 3.75 with a standard deviation of 2.07. On the other hand, the mean number of client serviced weekly by the girls is 16.58 with a standard deviation of 11.15.

**Table 25: Number of Customers Serviced by Girls Daily**

<b>Number of customers</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1 – 5	89	86.4
6 – 10	14	13.6
Total	103	100
Mean number of customers serviced daily	3.75	S.D = 2.07
Mean number of customers serviced weekly	16.58	S.D = 11.15

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

Level of involvement in prostitution during the different seasons of the year. The level of involvement of the girls in child prostitution during the different seasons of the year is presented in Table (24). Overall, the respondents rated their activities during the different seasons of the year to be moderately high (Composite mean = 3.41, S.D = 0.97). The respondents ranked their level of involvement in prostitution during National Holidays (Mean = 3.84, S.D = 1.37), Easter season (Mean = 3.73, S.D = 1.40), Christmas season (Mean = 3.68, S.D = 1.44) and the New Year period (Mean = 3.66, S.D = 1.49) to be high. On the other hand, the girls ranked their involvement to be moderately high during community festivals (Mean = 3.39, S.D = 1.33), normal periods of the year (Mean = 3.28, S.D = 1.46), when school is on vacation (Mean = 3.17, S.D = 1.31) and when school is in session (Mean = 2.56, S.D = 1.29).

**Table 26: Level of involvement in Prostitution during the different Seasons of the Year**

Seasons	Mean	S.D
Other National Holidays	3.84	1.37
During Easter season	3.73	1.40
During Christmas season	3.68	1.44
During the new year period	3.66	1.49
During community festivals	3.39	1.33
During normal periods of the year	3.28	1.46
When school is on vacation	3.17	1.31
When school is in session	2.56	1.29
Composite mean	3.41	0.97

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103. Means were calculated from a scale of 1 =

Very low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderately High, 4 = High, 5 = Very High



### Kind of Clients Serviced by the Girls

Table 27 show the result of the study on the Kind of clients serviced by the girls during the activities as prostitutes. The result indicates that majority of the girls (90.3%) service young Ghanaian males between the ages of 25 and 40 years. Also close to half of the girls (48.5%) service white foreign men whilst approximately one third (38.8%) also serviced men from neighbouring African countries. The result is due to the reason that the clients are in the working class in the study area who are capable of paying for the services of the child prostitutes.

**Table 27: Kind of Clients Service by the Girls**

Customers	Frequency	Percentage
Younger Ghanaian men (25- 40yrs)	93	90.3
Foreign men	50	48.5
Men from Neighbouring countries	40	38.8
Older Ghanaian men (40yrs and above)	30	29.1

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, multiple responses

Many people will argue that tourism is to blame for the global epidemic of sexual enslavement of girls, despite the fact that in many nations, local men exploit the youngsters in question Bakirci (2007), as in the case described above. Thus, although tourism and pornography was contributed factor of pushing and entrapping girls into prostitution, the role/behaviour of local men in initiation and engaging the services of girl prostitutes cannot be underestimated.

It was revealed among other things that the boom in oil has called for migrants from other countries and other regions and cities in Ghana encamp in

and around Western Region. It was found out that prostitutes move in the Western Region just to make quick cash and go back to their country/region and continue with their normal life (some are students and others are traders). They are of the view that the influx of foreigners and other local migrants as well as African migrants due to the oil and related businesses makes it more lucrative in the Region.

They revealed that most of the workers in the oil industries and their allied companies are expatriates and migrants from other parts of Ghana and neighbouring countries who come to Takoradi without their wives or partners, so they (the prostitutes) step in to play the essential role of satisfying their sexual desire which is an essential biological need that must be satisfied to ensure emotional stability and distress them after a hard day's work or week's hassle and stress of work, to be able to work effectively and efficiently.

Community circumstances that increase minors' risk of entrapment into prostitution, according to Clawson (2009), include living in an urban setting with high and escalated levels of commercial operation. Situational factors such as risk factors, such as the existence of an adult prostitution market and the presence of large numbers of transient males (e.g. conventioners, tourists, truckers, or military personnel), can lead to the establishment of child prostitution businesses, according to Estes and Wiener (2005).

### **Extent of Girls' Involvement in Prostitution**

The result of the study in Figure 2 shows the extent of girls' involvement in prostitution. More than half (64) of the respondents said they were involved in prostitution on part-time basis whilst 34 of the respondents said they are involved in prostitution on full-time basis, four are seasonal and one on a one-

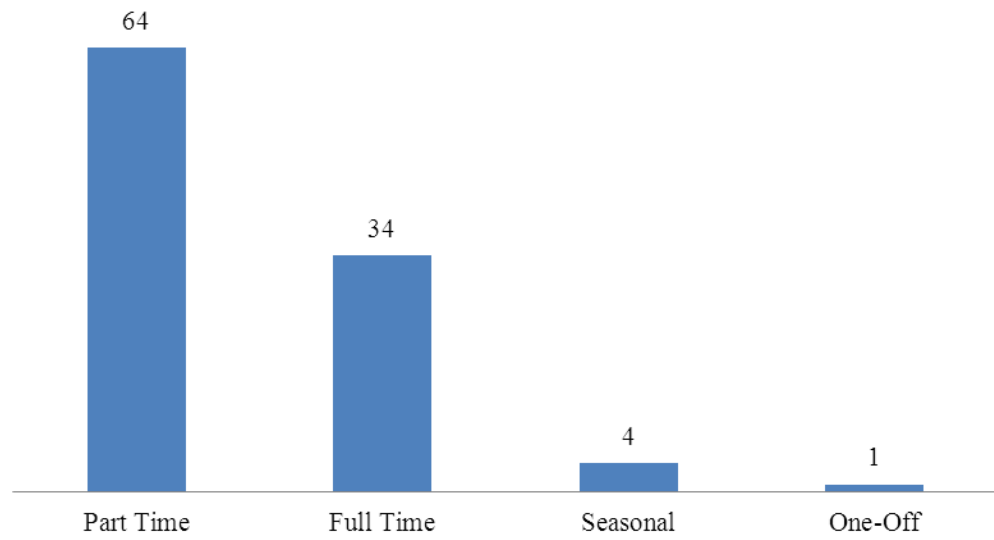
off basis. It can be deduced from the results that the girls who are involved in prostitution on part-time basis also carry out other activities especially during the day as bar or shop attendants, street hawkers and head porters hence their level of involvement been part-time.

The qualitative interview with the respondents also revealed three types of involvement: full time, part time and seasonal. Full time prostitutes practise every day, full day, or that is the only job they engage in. Part time prostitutes work either only night or day under the cover of other trades. They are known to be engaged in a particular trade like 'pure water' business and fruit selling, but will sneak out to offer sex services at the appropriate time. Others engage in services like hawkers, head porters or sell confectionaries and they use their trade as a disguise to engage in prostitution (by soliciting openly or subtly for clients while trading) but at night they work as prostitutes.

Seasonal prostitutes only work during occasions such as festivals, Christmas, New Year, Easter, funerals where different social gathering often occurs. Here, they take advantage of the festive occasions (parties, high patronage of night club, spot and beer bars) to do brisk business. It could be inferred here that in Ghana (Takoradi) in particular different such levels of involvement exist in prostitution practice. However, there appears to be the likelihood for those seasonal prostitutes to move to other levels of full and part time prostitution. Seasonal prostitutes go round trying to catch the attention of potential client by dressing provocatively, visibly exhibiting seductive gestures and other non-verbal cues.

Thorbeck and Pattanaik (2002) investigated the patterns and characteristics of women's migration in order to describe the complex reality of

prostitution (an increase in the number of men traveling abroad as sex tourists, military or UN personnel, and an increase in the number of women, but also men and children, migrating from poorer countries to become prostitutes for male demand) (which varies between extremes of slavery and organised migration of prostitutes who choose to travel themselves).



*Figure 2: Extent of Girls' Involvement in Prostitution*

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103.

In relation to the extent of involvement, the child prostitutes categorise their engagements into various types of prostitutes available within the region.

1. Those on the streets usually near a night club, drinking spot or drinking bar where business of prostitution is known to take place (where male client come purposes to choose, a bargain for a price and pick a girl after agreeing on the charge for a short or long time).
2. Those hovering from one entertainment centre (night club, drinking spot or drinking bar, funerals etc.) to the other with the hope of scouting or attracting a potential client interested in their services.

3. Those who sit in front of their room (cubicles) usually full time prostitutes are in a slum settlement where mostly prostitutes reside.
4. Girls who are head porters / hawkers / sellers of confectionaries at the lorry stations whose clients are mainly drivers and their conductors.
5. Those (escorts) accompanying men to social gatherings especially funerals, carnivals and festivals, may sexually service other men observed at the gathering who express interest in them for reward and drinks.
6. Those grouped in a slum / areas known for prostitution under the care of a pimp (male or female). Manages and protects or may shelter them. The pimp usually does the negotiations, charges the clients and takes a percentage of the charge as her share before or after the services has been offered the girls.
7. Those living in various neighbourhoods linked to a pimp who calls them when their services is needed and takes her commission for linking the client to the prostitutes. Here pimp is known by clients, he/she negotiates with client before calling girls on standby after agreement has been made. Girls have no negotiate power, pimp decides how much to be given to them after they have rendered their services. Pimp constantly keeps scouting for new girls.

### **Reasons for their Extent of Involvement in Prostitution**

The result as presented in Table 26 shows the reasons for the extent of involvement of the girls in prostitution. The result indicates that unemployment (92.2%), financial gains (87.4%), poverty (87.4%), high cost of living (83.5%), negative peer pressure (82.5%) and no family support (80.6%) are six main

reason suggested by the girls to be responsible for their extent of involvement in prostitution. The rest of the reasons are broken homes (78.8%), involved to provide for personal needs (71.8%), because it the only job to do (69.9%), feeling shy to work during day time (54.4%) and quest for personal sexual satisfaction (50.5%).

**Table 28: Reasons for Extent of Involvement in Prostitution**

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	95	92.2
Financial gains	90	87.4
Poverty	90	87.4
High cost of living	86	83.5
Negative peer pressure	85	82.5
No family support	83	80.6
Broken homes	81	78.6
To provide for personal needs	74	71.8
Only job to do	71	69.9
Feel shy to work during day time	56	54.4
Sexual satisfaction	52	50.5
Sexual addiction	41	39.8
For fun	33	32.0
To avoid unwanted pregnancies	24	23.3
To avoid contracting STDs	19	18.4

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, multiple responses

During the FGDs, the views of girls below eighteen years appear to be similar to girls above eighteen categories. For instance both categories were of the view that prostitution could be fun/entertaining, you get quick cash to buy whatever you want and this gives you high purchasing power in society. The gifts, make up and attires make you look trendy and admired/envied by other girls in the community. In addition, those girls below 18 years categorically



unanimously agreed that, it is better than having/dating one boyfriend (partner) who does not pay for having sex with them, and cannot afford to buy their needs. Further, the boy is likely to break up with (dump) them for other girls and break their hearts after committing yourself to him. On the other hand, the men who come patronizing sex, you just entertain them, have fun get some money and gifts then you part ways; there is neither commitment nor broken heart. Whenever they want to blow time they comeback for you. The fact that you may meet a new person again even makes it exciting.

### **Perceived National, Community and Victims Support Interventions**

This section of the Chapter discusses the strategies that could be used to help rescue the girls from child prostitution and the interventions that can be used to reintegrate the girls back into society.

### **Perceived Interventions which should be provided for girls to stop indulging in Child Prostitution**

The perceived intervention which could be provided for the girls to stop indulging in child prostitution is presented in Table (28). The result shows that receiving financial support to start trade (82.5%), providing the girls with employment (80.6%), education with the needed support (67.0%) and vocational training (62.1%), the need for prayers (56.3%) and the need for counselling session to be provided for the girls (56.3%) are the six main intervention areas that the girls require to stop indulging in child prostitution

**Table 29: Perceived Interventions which should be provided for girls to stop Indulging in Child Prostitution**

<b>Interventions</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Financial support to start trade	85	82.5
Provided with employment	83	80.6
Education with needed support	69	67.0
Vocational training	64	62.1
Need prayers	58	56.3
Need counselling	58	56.3
Need accommodation/shelter	50	48.5
Financial support for children's education	27	26.2
Need parental support	21	20.4

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, multiple responses

They are also of the view during the FGDs that, the state and other related non-governmental agencies must recognize them and regularize their business rather than being stigmatized and harassed by police, emphasizing that there will be no supply if there is no demand. The girl prostitutes rationalized their job as an integral part of tourism and economic boom, claiming they play an important role in the oil business although in a latent and ostracized form.

#### **National level Strategies to Help Girls Quit Child Prostitution**

National level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution is presented in Table (29). Generally, the respondents agreed with the national level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution (Composite mean = 3.82, S.D = 0.71). Six top most important strategies the girls agree can help them to quit child prostitution are better protection of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse (Mean = 3.99, S.D = 0.79), better protection of victims-survivors domestic violence (Mean = 3.97, S.D = 0.87), improvement of law enforcement

mechanisms against child abuse (Mean = 3.93, S.D = 0.84), cooperation among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome (Mean = 3.84, S.D = 0.92), strengthening capacity of law enforcement bodies deal with child abuse exploiters (Mean = 3.81, S.D = 1.03) and legislative changes for stricter sanctions against child prostitutes (Mean = 3.81, S.D = 1.07).

**Table 30: National level Strategies to Help Girls Quit Child Prostitution**

National level strategies	Mean	S.D
Better protection of victims / survivors of child sexual abuse	3.99	0.79
Better protection of victims-survivors domestic violence	3.97	0.87
Improvement of law enforcement mechanisms against child abuse	3.94	0.84
Cooperation among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome	3.84	0.92
Strengthening capacity of law enforcement bodies deal with child abuse exploiters	3.81	1.03
Legislative changes for stricter sanctions against child prostitutes	3.81	1.07
Raising awareness to reduce public tolerance	3.71	1.10
Legislative changes for stricter sanctions against exploiters	3.65	1.16
Dialogues among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome	3.64	0.98
Composite mean	3.82	0.71

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, Means were calculated from a scale of 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Moderately agree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly agree

The findings of the study on national-level strategies to help girls quit prostitution are in line with the ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child

Labour, Convention No. 182, which includes raising awareness to reduce public tolerance and demand for CSEC, as well as a campaign for legislative change.

### **Community level Strategies to Help Girls Quit Child Prostitution**

Table 31 depicts the result of the study on the community level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution. The result show that overall the respondents agreed with the community level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution (Composite mean = 3.92, S.D = 0.66). Provision of educational support to vulnerable children in prostitution (Mean = 4.13, S.D = 0.85), direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of family economic empowerment (Mean = 4.03, S.D = 0.91), direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of outreach (Mean = 3.93, S.D = 0.79), provision of emotional support to victim's family (Mean = 3.93, S.D = 0.82) and raising awareness in communities with high risk of prostitution (Mean = 3.93, S.D = 0.96) are five most important community level strategies that the respondents agreed to help girls quit prostitution.

The International Labour Organization's Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, Convention No. 182, for dealing with the issue of commercial sexual exploitation in children at the community level, including prevention in at-risk communities through awareness education, socio-economic and educational support to children and families; prevention in communities with CSEC through cooperation with the concerned sectors and awareness.

**Table 31: Community level strategies to help Girls Quit Child Prostitution**

Community Level Strategies	Mean	S.D
Provision of educational support to vulnerable children in prostitution	4.13	0.85
Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of family economic empowerment	4.03	0.91
Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of outreach	3.93	0.79
Provision of emotional support to victim's family	3.93	0.82
Raising awareness in communities with high risk of prostitution	3.93	0.96
Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of rehabilitation	3.89	0.82
Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of reintegration into the community	3.76	1.06
Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of withdrawal from exploiters	3.74	1.02
Composite mean	3.92	0.66

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, Means were calculated from a scale of 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = moderately agree, 4 = Agree, 5 = strongly agree.

### **Victim Assistance and Interventions to Help Girls Quit Child Prostitution**

Victim assistance and interventions to help girls quit child prostitution are presented in Table 32. Generally, the respondents agree to the victim assistance and interventions to help girls quit child prostitution (Composite mean = 4.31, S.D = 0.76). Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the standard practice of providing care for children by organization (Mean = 4.42, S.D = 0.79), providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the observed best interest of the child (Mean = 4.39, S.D = 0.84), rescuing the

children out of the brothels/streets (Mean = 4.39, S.D = 1.09), providing the children with treatment services after rescue exercise (Mean = 4.36, S.D = 0.91) and providing the children with health care services after rescue exercise (Mean = 4.33, S.D = 1.01) are five key victim assistance and interventions the respondents agree can help girls to quit child prostitution.

**Table 32: Victim assistance and interventions to help girls quit Child Prostitution**

Victim assistance and interventions	Mean	S.D
Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the standard practice of providing care for children by organization	4.42	0.79
Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the observed best interest of the child	4.39	0.84
Rescue the children out of the brothels/streets	4.39	1.09
Providing the children with treatment services after rescue exercise	4.36	0.91
Providing the children with health care services after rescue exercise	4.33	1.01
Putting the children in a safe place such as the social welfare centres after rescue exercise	4.17	1.10
Putting the children in a safe place such as the foster homes after rescue exercise.	4.01	1.21
Composite mean	4.31	0.76

Source: Field Data, 2014. n = 103, Means were calculated from a scale of 1 = Strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Moderately agree, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly agree

The victims' assistance and interventions outlined in the ILO Convention on Poorest Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 for dealing with the issue of commercial sexual exploitation in children which include



alternative as which depends on the situation of the child that might include taking her out of a brothel or a street, providing her with health care and treatment, putting her in a safe place such as at the family home, a foster home or foster family or shelter and middle term assistance which requires an elaboration of intervention plans that follow the standard practice of a care providing organization and that observe the best interest of the child are confirmed by this study.

The motivations of clients (all of whom were men and appeared to come from all walks of life) were also examined in the third instalment of the series. These seemed to imply a link between the difficulties and costs of finding a sexual partner who would easily fit their sexual preferences and the simple and easily accessible option of prostitution. Such characteristics and motivations of clients are studied in a paper edited by Thorbek and Pattanaik (2002), which documents the surge in prostitution across borders.

A sort of "psychological" profile of male sex tourists is created based on their own descriptions of themselves and accounts of their experiences, implying that many of them find relationships with others difficult (either because they don't have the time or the skills required to meet people) and choose sex tourism as a "easier" alternative, which does not imply any responsibility. Sexism and racism appear to combine to create a large gap between clients and prostitutes, allowing consumers to effectively disregard and show little interest in the lives and working reasons of the prostitutes whose services they purchase.

Regarding interventions they require to take them out of prostitution, the girls gave varying reasons such as start-up capital, back to school packages,

apprenticeship/vocational skills training, parental care and support as well as employment/start-up capital for their parents, especially, their mothers. Interestingly, the girls under eighteen had different perception / view of effective and sustainable intervention plan that could help them exit prostitution. Most girls younger than seventeen expressed interest in going back to school if they could be given sustainable financial support in terms of fees, feeding and other school supplies as well as parental care and counselling.

Older girls on the other hand wanted start-up capital and skills training or employment to earn a sustainable living in order to become financially independent. However, the older girls who perceive prostitution as their chosen profession were of the view that they want it legalized just as any other profession and their activities rather regulated, they were ready to pay tax to the government if instructed rather than being harassed frequently by some police who end up taking bribe in cash or kind which does not go to the government. They also said they needed a comprehensive health post where they could go for regular screening and counselling without stigmatization.

### **Barriers to Effective Intervention**

For example, the researcher asks whether we as a culture are truly concerned about children's rights. Is society providing them with enough protection to keep them from becoming sex workers?

If any youngster is found engaging in such behaviour, society must accept that it has failed to provide enough protection, necessitating a re-evaluation of the social system, values, and ethics as a whole. In entirety, the child ought not to be blamed in her involvement.

Girls under eighteen's do not perceive the following as part of prostitution

1. Servicing multiple men (known and unknown) sexually in exchange for a reward (in the form of gift, food, money, a good treat for a night in a hotel).
2. Accompanying men to funerals for a night or two, entertaining them which usually include sex in exchange for free drinks, food, new clothes. During the funeral she may entertain other men who woo her for a negotiable reward.
3. Going round to spots, drinking bars, night clubs several times a week in the company of other girls, boys or alone with the intention of attracting men who want to be entertained, which possibly results in sex (short time or full time) and being rewarded with a token of appreciation which is usually not negotiated.
4. Sexually servicing drivers, bus conductors on demand whiles hawking or head porting or selling confectionaries at the lorry station for a token of between three to Five Ghana Cedis.
5. Accompanying drivers late in the night (negotiations/appointment made earlier) to drinking spots and bars which could end up in being lured for sex in the car or a motel and being dropped off late night or the day the next morning.

To them, ladies who stand by the street and bargain for the price of sex for their prospective client are prostitutes. Also women who sit in front of their room attracting prospective client who come to pay a fix charge after being serviced are prostitutes.

To arrive at stakeholder's view of child prostitution, the director of Girl Child Education Directorate at the Ghana Education Service (GES) regional office of the Western region was interviewed.

The Director of GES was quick to begin the interview on the notion that ...Inadequate resources and some challenges have disabled the office to document cases of child prostitution. Among the mentioned challenges she explained that even when such cases come up with clear evidence during her tenure as the Metro Director of the Girl Child Education the children's parents became defensive and protective denying that their children could engage in an act of prostitution. This makes it difficult to pursue further after several follow ups...

...Another constrain they have is the fact that because such activities usually occur outside school hours it is outside their jurisdiction, they are therefore unable to pursue it. Her office with the help of the school co-coordinators of the girl child clubs which are formed in most public schools only undertake sensitization programmes such as sex education, moral education, boosting self-esteem with the girls during club days in school. She said as the former Metro Director she designed a training manual and engaged in capacity training activities with the co-coordinators to enable them uniformly, effectively and efficiently handle club activities in their various schools, as well as facilitating monitoring and evaluation before handing over to her predecessor...

However on her personal level, she uses to go out at night to areas that are known to be hot spot for prostitution business in the communities. She sadly sees girls of school going age between the ages of 11-17 dressed provocatively

in their high heels, wigs, big ear ring, loud make ups and other accessories  
disguising themselves to look like adults to enable them avoid being noticed...



## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Introduction

This chapter summarizes the research and conclusions drawn from the findings. Recommendations regarding how best to address the various challenges that came out of the discussion and analysis, and suggestions in relation to the factors associated with child prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana. This was to help provide empirical information to support Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and MMDAs to formulate policy to help mitigate the phenomenon and ways to overcome the limitations that were identified.

#### Summary of Key Findings

Therefore, the study looked forward to determine the factors that leads and sustains the stay of girls in to prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana. This is to help provide data to support NGOs and MMDAs to formulate policies to help mitigate the phenomenon. The specific objectives included the following:

1. Describe the demographic, social, cultural and economic characteristics of youngsters involved in prostitution
2. Describe the levels of involvement of children in prostitution
3. Examine the factors that lead girls into prostitution and sustain the stay of the girls in prostitution
4. Analyse the perception of prostitutes about possible ways of curbing the issues of child prostitution in Ghana.



In order to address these objectives properly, research questions set to be answered by adopting an explanatory sequential mixed method, specifically a descriptive survey design and phenomenological enquiry. The study employed both approaches and involved self-administered questionnaires to 103 girl prostitutes all of whom started prostitution below age 18. Out of the 103, 30 girl prostitutes were sampled for the qualitative aspect of the study by interviewing them for in-depth knowledge to further explain the quantitative data obtained. The 30 respondents who were interviewed were put in two groups, (those who were in prostitution but are below the years of eighteen (18) as at the time of the study and those who are above 18 as at the time of the study but started prostitution below age 18), to compare their experiences, views, perceptions, push and pull factors of child prostitution. The completed surveys and interview responses were then analyzed using the Statistical Package and Services Solutions (SPSS). The questionnaire and interview gave each respondent the opportunity to discuss the factors that leads and sustains the stay of girls in prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana.

The population under study's demographic, social, cultural, and economic qualities. The study revealed that that the average age of girls at their last birthdays were less than 21 and 30 years, majority (53.3%) of which were beneath the 21 years bracket and also about one quarter of them are below the age of eighteen. Majority (71.8%) of the respondents started prostitution between 16-17 years whiles 28.2% of the respondents started prostitution between 12-15 years. Moreover, with regards to those interviewed, the first group was between the ages of fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) while second group was in the age category of 18 and 25. The largest ethnic group (33.5%)

involved in prostitution in the study area was the Fante. Also, from the interview conducted, although majority (27) were Christians by birth, they indicated that they only attended church occasionally, sometimes Christmas, New Year, weddings or funerals.

However, majority (92.3%) of the respondents had had formal education to guide them in their respective trades out of which (37.9%) were Junior Secondary/High School graduates. It could also be inferred from the result from the interviewees that those above eighteen were mostly JHS graduates who could not continue to the senior High School (SHS) due to lack of financial support from their parents/ guardians (poverty) or no placement in good schools because of poor grades. Others had gone through some form of vocational training formally, informally or non- formally and had not completed nor had stopped abruptly due to lack of financial support. Those who struggled to complete their training cited lack of start-up capital to start their own business as the main cause for entering into prostitutions.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that the current economic status of the girls was very poor (39.8%) therefore from all indication, it might either be a case that majority of the girls were either underpaid for their services as prostitutes, or exploited by pimps. Also, majority (56.3%) of the girls stayed in Non-residential areas. However, a greater proportion of the respondents (40.8%) lived alone without any parental or guardian support with (84.5%) of parents of respondents having no knowledge of their wards' involvement in prostitution. That notwithstanding, (75.0%) of the parents or guardians of respondents did not give any support to their girls' involvement.

Also, 36.9% of the girls came from wedded marital and single parenting homes. It could therefore be concluded that, the correlations between the results indicated a negative influence on the character traits of the girls in that with the exception of 17 (16.5%) who were still married, 2 (1.9%) of the parents of the girls were never married. It was revealed from the findings that, a few of the parents/guardians of respondents were actually involved in well-paid jobs with majority of them being traders (58.3%). In spite of that, it was apparent that the current economic status of the parents/guardians was very poor (23.3%). A majority (33.0%) of the parents/guardians had never been to school with the exception of (10.7%) who had had tertiary training. With respect to the household features of respondents, the mean of sex of the youngest household member was 11.76% whilst the mean age of youngest household member in years was 11.76years, an indication of how early girls enter into prostitution.

### **Social Factors which Lead and Sustain Girls in Child Prostitution**

The findings revealed that the major reasons responsible for girls engaging in prostitution were due to financial problems accounting for 81.6% and negative peer pressure, also accounting for 38.8%. Also, from the responses from the interview, it was observed that girls below eighteen years within the first group one way or the other identified fun, curiosity and exploration as one of the reasons for engaging into prostitution.

Furthermore, with regards to the reasons which sustained respondents in prostitution, there was link between that and reasons which lead them into the business. It was discovered that majority (79.6%) of the girls were sustained in their trade with the help of the finance accrued through prostitution.

The result of the study revealed that generally the girls viewed moderately high the social factors that lead girls into child prostitution. The single most important social factor that the girls said was very high on the list of factors which lead girls into child prostitution is single parenthood. The study also observed that poor parental support, negative peer pressure, weak parental control and early sexual initiation are social factors which were high in leading girls into child prostitution.

Furthermore, the study revealed that, overall the girls viewed social factors sustaining them in child prostitution to be high. It is worth noting that single parenthood, poor parental control, negative peer pressure, living in risk environments such as brothels, weak parental control and teenage pregnancy are the six most important social factors high on the list of social factors sustaining girls in child prostitution.

The study result shows that generally, the respondents viewed the cultural factors to be moderately high in leading girls into child prostitution. Exposure to pornography and western culture through the media are high on the list of cultural factors that lead girls into child prostitution. The acceptable attitude of men in the society towards polygamy was also rated to be moderately high.

With respect to the cultural factors which sustain girls in child prostitution, the respondents largely rated the factors to be moderately high. Two most important cultural factors which the respondents rated high to be sustaining girls in child prostitution are exposure to western culture through the media and exposure to pornography.

### **Economic Factors which Lead and Sustain Girls in Child Prostitution**

Specifically, the respondents rated as very high the economic factors which lead girls into child prostitution. From the result, unemployment, poverty, low family income level and lack of family financial support are four most important economic factors which are very high to lead girls into teen prostitution. On the other hand, the respondents generally viewed the economic factors as high in sustaining girls in child prostitution. Among the economic factors, unemployment, low family income level and poverty are three main economic factors the respondents rated to be very high in sustaining girls in child prostitution.

The majority of respondents (86.4 percent) treated one to five consumers on a daily basis, according to the report. Every day, the girls serve an average of 3.75 people. The girls, on the other hand, serve an average of 16.58 clients per week. The respondents evaluated their activities reasonably high during the various seasons of the year.

Their level of involvement in prostitution during National Holidays, Easter season, Christmas season and the New Year period was high whilst they ranked their activities during community festivals, normal periods of the year, when school is on vacation and when school is in session to be moderately high. The majority of the girls (90.3 percent) serve young Ghanaian males between the ages of 25 and 40, according to the results. In addition, nearly half of the females (48.5%) serve white foreign men, while about a third (38.8%) also serve men from neighboring African countries.

More than half (64) of the respondents said they are involved in prostitution on Part-time basis whilst 34 said they involved in prostitution on Full-time basis,

four are seasonal and one on a one-off basis. On the reason for their level of involvement the result indicates that unemployment (92.2%), financial gains (87.4%), poverty (87.4%), high cost of living (83.5%), negative peer pressure (82.5%) and no family support (80.6%) are six main reasons suggested by the girls to be responsible for their extent of involvement in prostitution.

The single most important economic determinant of the involvement of the girls in child prostitution is changes in standard of living of the girls determined through a logistic regression analysis. The result implies that as the girls experiences positive economic changes in their standard of living the less likely they will get involve in child prostitution.

#### **Perceived, National, Community and Victims Support Interventions**

On the perceived intervention which could be provided for the girls to stop indulging in child prostitution, the result shows that receiving financial support to start trade (82.5%), providing the girls with employment (80.6%), education with the needed support (67.0%) and vocational training (62.1%), the need for prayers (56.3%) and the need for counseling session to be provided for the girls (56.3%) are the six main intervention areas that the girls require to stop indulging in child prostitution. Generally, the respondents agreed with the national level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution.

Five top most important strategies the girls agree can help them to quit child prostitution are better protection of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse, healthier defence of victims-survivors domestic violence, upgrading of law enforcement mechanisms against child abuse, cooperation among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome, strengthening



capacity of law enforcement bodies deal with child abuse exploiters and legislative changes for stricter sanctions against child prostitutes.

The result show that overall the respondents agreed with the community level strategies to help girls quit child prostitution. The provision of educational support to vulnerable children in prostitution, direct assistance to victims/survivors through family economic empowerment, direct assistance to victims/survivors through outreach, provision of emotional support to victim's family, and raising awareness in communities with a high risk of prostitution are the five most important community-level strategies that the respite program has implemented.

The respondents agreed to the victim assistance and interventions to help girls quit child prostitution. Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the standard practice of providing care for children by organization, providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the observed greatest interest of the child, rescuing the children out of the brothels/streets, providing the children with treatment services after rescue exercise and giving the children with health care services after rescue exercise are five key victim assistance and interventions the respondents agree can help girls to quit child prostitution.

### **Conclusions**

Based on the summary of the findings of the study, the following conclusions and lessons were drawn;

Young girls among the ages of 13 and 18 years are vulnerable and are likely to be lured into child prostitution. Most of the girls involved in child prostitution in the research area have low level of formal education between Primary and Senior High School. Girls who live alone or with friends as a result of broken

homes and single parenthood without parental or guardian support are highly vulnerable to be enticed into child prostitution by friends.

Vulnerable girls who experience financial problems and peer pressure at the same time are likely to lead them into child prostitution. The girls are likely to be sustained in child prostitution if their financial problems persist. Single parenthood, poor parental support, negative peer pressure, weak parental control and early sexual initiation are high social factors which leading girls into child prostitution. Girls living in risk environments such as brothels who have suffered from single parenthood, poor parental control, negative peer pressure, weak parental control and teenage pregnancy are likely to be sustained in child prostitution.

Girls exposed to western culture and pornography through the media are at risk of been led and sustained into child prostitution. Young girls who encounter financial problems as unemployment, poverty, low family income level and lack of family financial support are at risk of been induced and sustained into child prostitution. Child prostitutes who service high number of clients without protection during National Holidays, Easter season, Christmas season and the New Year period are at risk of attracting sexually transmitted infection. Adult Ghanaian men and foreign national pick young Ghanaian girls as sex partners for a fee in the study area. Improving the economic standard of living of child prostitutes in the study area will help the child reduce their level of involvement in child prostitution. Providing child prostitutes in the study area with financial support to start trade which will provide them with employment will help them quit child prostitution. Providing child prostitutes with formal education with Secondary and Vocational training with the needed logistical

support will lure them out of child prostitution. National child welfare organizations lack the resources and expertise to cope with child exploiters and abusers. Communities in the study area lack the requisite skills and knowledge to provide support for victim of child prostitution. The victims of child prostitution agree that when the needed incentives are provided for them including prayers and counseling, it will help them quit the act of child prostitution.

### **Recommendations**

The following suggestions are made based on the study's findings. The recommendations were made to give statistics to assist the Ghanaian government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and multilateral development banks (MMDAs) in formulating policies to help reduce the phenomena of child prostitution in Ghana's Western area. The recommendations also aim to assist community leaders, parents, guardians, victims, and victims' families in dealing with the phenomenon of child prostitution.

Parents with children among the ages of 13 and 18 years in the study area should keep a close relationship with their children to ensure that they are not influenced by peer pressure. Ghana Education Service with support from parents and Heads of schools should put in policies to strictly keep children in school throughout school hours. Parents should be encouraged to ensure that their children do not drop out school by providing support for their education to a high level. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child stay with one of them when they experience a broken to prevent the child from been enticed into child prostitution. Parents are encouraged to provide for their children's needs in order to keep them from engaging in child labor, which puts them at risk of

being enticed into child prostitution. The Section of Social Welfare with support from NGO and the Law Enforcement Agencies should help rescue the victim of child prostitution living in risk environments such as brothels and integrated into Welfare Homes and put in mechanisms to discourage the girls from going back after being rescued. The Ministry of Children, Gender and Social Protection through the Department of Social Welfare should reach out to vulnerable parents with low income levels in the study area with support from government's social interventions.

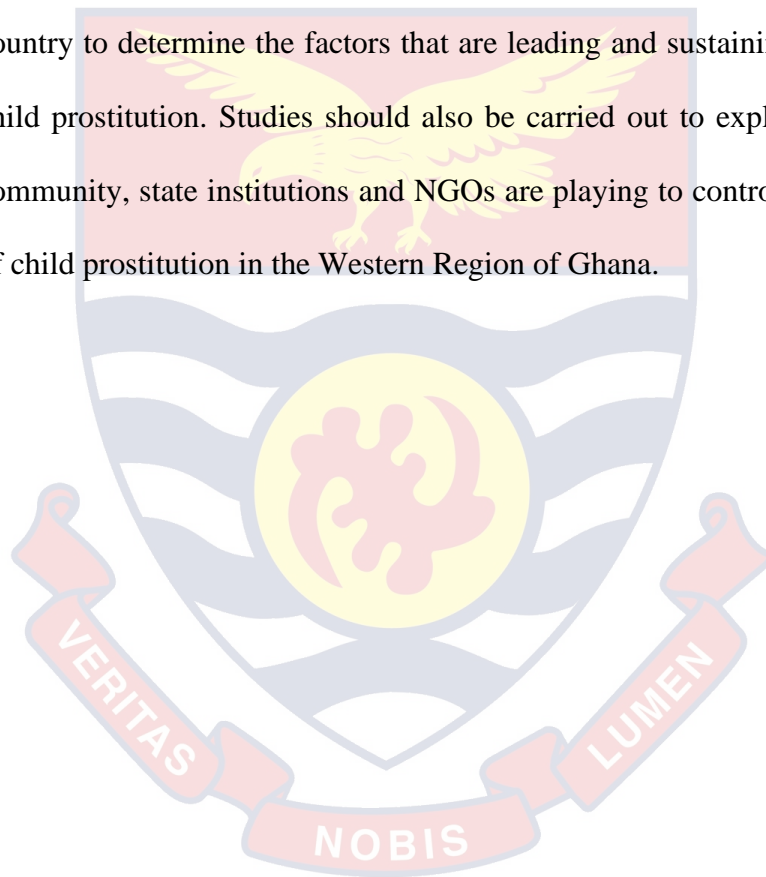
NGOs in the study area are encouraged to offer support such as education and condoms to sexually active young teenage females who are involved in child prostitution to help reduce the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections in the study area during special occasions as National Holidays, Easter, Christmas and New Year periods. NGOs in the study area should implement interventions intended at improving the economic standard of living of the victim of child prostitution in order to help the girls quit their involvement in child prostitution. NGOs operating in the study area encouraged to support victims of child prostitution with financial backing to start trade which will provide employment for the girls to help them quit child prostitution. NGOs operating the study area are encouraged to support victims of child prostitution who are willing to continue their education with the needed logistics to make their stay in school free financial burden.

The Department of Social Welfare and NGOs work together to help form the capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies help deal with child exploiters and abusers. NGOs and the Department of Social Welfare should increase education in vulnerable communities in the Western region to help

create awareness in the communities about implications of children getting involved in child prostitution as part of community support interventions. NGOs and the Department of Social Welfare are encouraged liaise the religious Leaders and community opinion leader to support the victims with prayers and counseling sessions as part of the victims support interventions.

### **Suggestions for Further Studies**

It is recommended that the study be repeated in other regions of the country to determine the factors that are leading and sustaining young girls in child prostitution. Studies should also be carried out to explore the roles the community, state institutions and NGOs are playing to control the phenomena of child prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana.



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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A:

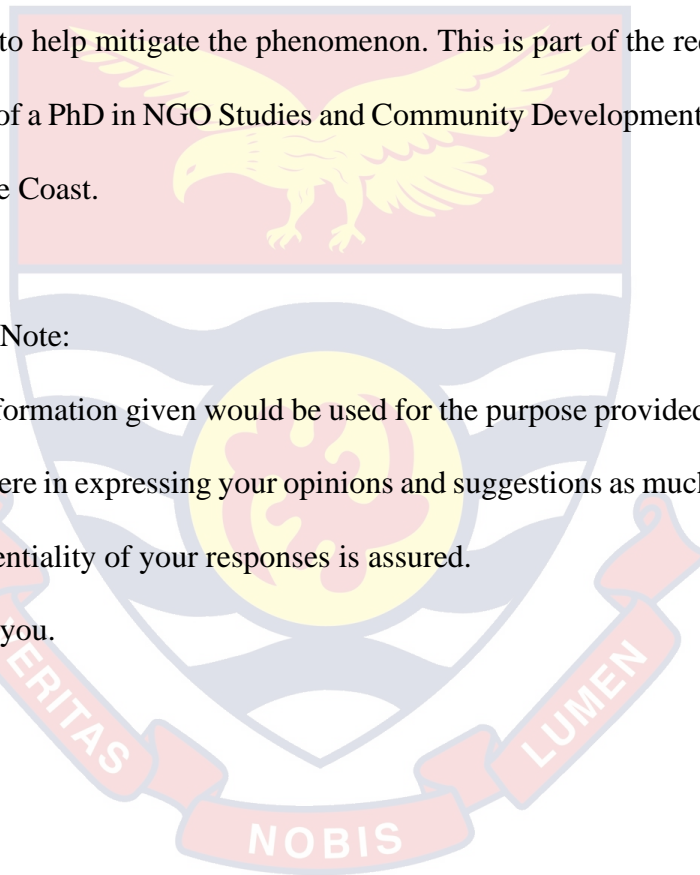
#### INTERVIEW GUIDE: PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD PROSTITUTES IN SOME SELECTED TOWNS IN WESTERN REGION OF GHANA

The purpose of this study is to find out perceptions of child prostitution in some selected towns in Western Region of Ghana in order to help provide data on child prostitution in the Region to support NGOs and MMDAs to formulate policy to help mitigate the phenomenon. This is part of the requirement for the award of a PhD in NGO Studies and Community Development in the University of Cape Coast.

Please Note:

The information given would be used for the purpose provided only. Therefore, be sincere in expressing your opinions and suggestions as much as possible. The confidentiality of your responses is assured.

Thank you.



## APPENDIX B

### INTERVIEW GUIDE: FOR PERCEPTION OF CHILD PROSTITUTES IN SOME SELECTED TOWNS IN WESTERN REGION OF GHANA

Date of interview: .....

#### PART ONE: Demographic, socio-cultural and economic characteristics

Name of District: .....

Name of Community: .....

Name of Location: .....

1. How old are you (Age at last birthday): .....years
2. At what age did you start prostitution (complete years): .....
3. Which ethnic group do you belong to? .....
4. Indicate your highest level of education by ticking [] in the appropriate box: Primary [] JSS/JHS [] SSS/SHS [] Tertiary [] Never been to School []
5. Indicate your current economic status by ticking [] in the appropriate box Very Poor [] Poor [] Moderately Rich [] Rich [] Very Rich []
6. Where do you live?  
Residential area [] Non-residential area [] Slam [] Brothel []  
Other, Specify .....
7. Who do you live with? Both Parents [] Father Only []  
Mother Only [] Guardian [] Live alone []  
Other Specify: .....
8. Are your parents/guardians aware of what you do? Yes [] No [] If No skip to 9.
9. Do your parents/guardians support what you do? Yes [] No []

10. What is the current state of your parent (s)?

Still married [ ] Divorced [ ] Separated [ ] Single parent [ ]

11. What is the occupation of your parent/guardian? .....

12. Indicate the economic status of your parents/guardian by ticking[√] the appropriate box:

Very Poor [ ] Poor [ ] Moderately Rich [ ]

Rich [ ] Very Rich [ ]

13. Indicate the highest level of education of your parent/guardian by ticking[√] the appropriate box:

Primary [ ] JSS/JHS [ ] SSS/SHS [ ]

Tertiary [ ] Never been to School [ ]

#### Household Characteristic

14. Household Size: .....

15. Sex of Household head: Male [ ] Female [ ]

16. Age of Household head: .....years

17. Sex of youngest household member: Male [ ] Female [ ]

18. Age of youngest household member.....years

19. Sex of oldest sibling: Male [ ] Female [ ]

20. Age of oldest sibling .....years



**PART TWO: what are the factors that lead girls into child prostitution and sustain the stay of the girl in prostitution?**

21. What are the reasons that led that you into child prostitution?

.....

.....

.....

.....

22. What are the reasons that are sustaining you in the prostitution?

.....

.....

.....

.....

23. Tick (✓) against which of the factors listed in the left column that lead girls you into child prostitution and which of them are sustaining them to stay in prostitution?

Rate your level of Participation using the following scale: 1 = Very low, 2 = low, 3 = Moderately high, 4 = High and 5 = Very high

SOCIAL FACTORS		Leading factors					Sustaining factors				
i	Single parenthood	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
ii	History of sexual abuse within families										
iii	Witnessing domestic violence on family members										

iv	Being a victim of domestic violence													
v	Practices of prostitution among family members													
vi	Street children													
vii	Teenage pregnancy													
vii	School problem													
i														
ix	History of alcohol and drug abuse in the family													
x	Existence of child labour in the family													
xi	Working in risk environments e.g. bars, street, brothels													
xii	Living in risk environments e.g. small brothels													
xii	Negative peer pressure	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5			
i														
xiv	Presence of adult prostitution in the family													
xv	Early sexual initiation													
xvi	Existence of sex tourism													
<b>CULTURAL FACTORS</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>			
i	Exposure to pornography													

ii	Female sexual mutilation												
iii	Early marriage												
iv	Puberty rites												
v	Exposure to western culture through the media												
vi	Acceptable attitudes of men in the society towards polygamy												
<b>ECONOMIC FACTORS</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>		
i	Unemployment												
ii	Lack of family financial support												
iii	Poverty												
iv	Changes in the standard of living												
v	Explosive business opportunities in the community												
vi	Low family income level												

**PART THREE: The level of involvement of girls involved in child prostitution?**

24. In the Table below, provide the average number of customers you service against the applicable period provided in the left column

Frequency of involvement with clients		Number of customers serviced
i	Daily	
ii	Weekly	
iii	Forth nightly	

25. In the Table below, use the rating scale provided to show how much you are involved in prostitution during the seasons or occasions named. Rate with the following scale: 1 = Very low, 2 = Low, 3 = Moderately High, 4 = High, 5 = Very High

Season/Occasion		level of involvement in prostitution				
		1	2	3	4	5
i	During Christmas season					
ii	During Easter season					
iii	During the new year period					
iv	When school is in session					
v	When school is on vacation					
vi	During community festivals					
vii	During normal periods of the year					
Vii	Other National Holidays					

26. What are the type of customers do service? Please tick as many as possible

Younger Ghanaian men (25- 40yrs) [ ] Older Ghanaian men (40yrs and above) [ ] Men from Neighbouring countries [ ] White foreign men [ ]

Other specify .....

27. What is the extent of your involvement in prostitution?

Part time [ ] Full time [ ] Seasonal [ ] One off [ ]

28. What are the reasons for your extent of involvement?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

29. Indicate where you are coming from?

Indigene [ ] Migrant from other part of Ghana [ ] Migrant from West Africa [ ] Migrant from other part of Africa [ ] Migrant from Overseas [ ]

30. Specifically state what assistance should be provided for you to stop indulging in child prostitution.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

To what extent do you agree that the following strategies will help you and others to quit child prostitution?

Rate with the following scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = moderately agree, 4 = Agree, 5 = strongly agree

<b>National level strategies</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
i.	Raising awareness to reduce public tolerance					
ii.	Legislative changes for stricter sanctions against exploiters					
iii.	Legislative changes for stricter sanctions against child prostitutes					
iv.	Better protection of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse					
v.	Better protection of victims-survivors domestic violence					
vi.	Improvement of law enforcement mechanisms against child abuse					
	Strengthening capacity of law enforcement bodies deal with child abuse exploiters					
vii.	Cooperation among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome					
viii.	Dialogues among national institutions on combatting the child prostitution syndrome					
<b>Community level strategies</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
ix.	Raising awareness in communities with high risk of prostitution					
x.	Provision of educational support to vulnerable children to prostitution					



xi.	Provision of emotional support to victim's family					
xii.	Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of outreach					
xiii.	Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of withdrawal from exploiters					
xiv.	Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of rehabilitation					
xv.	Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of reintegration into the community					
xvi.	Direct assistance to victims/survivors by means of family economic empowerment					
<b>Victim assistance and interventions</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
xvii.	Rescue the children out of the brothels/streets					
xviii.	Providing the children with health care services after rescue exercise					
xix.	Providing the children with treatment services after rescue exercise					
xx.	Putting the children in a safe place such as the social welfare centres after rescue exercise					
xxi.	Putting the children in a safe place such as the foster homes after rescue exercise					
xxii.	Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the observed best interest of the child					

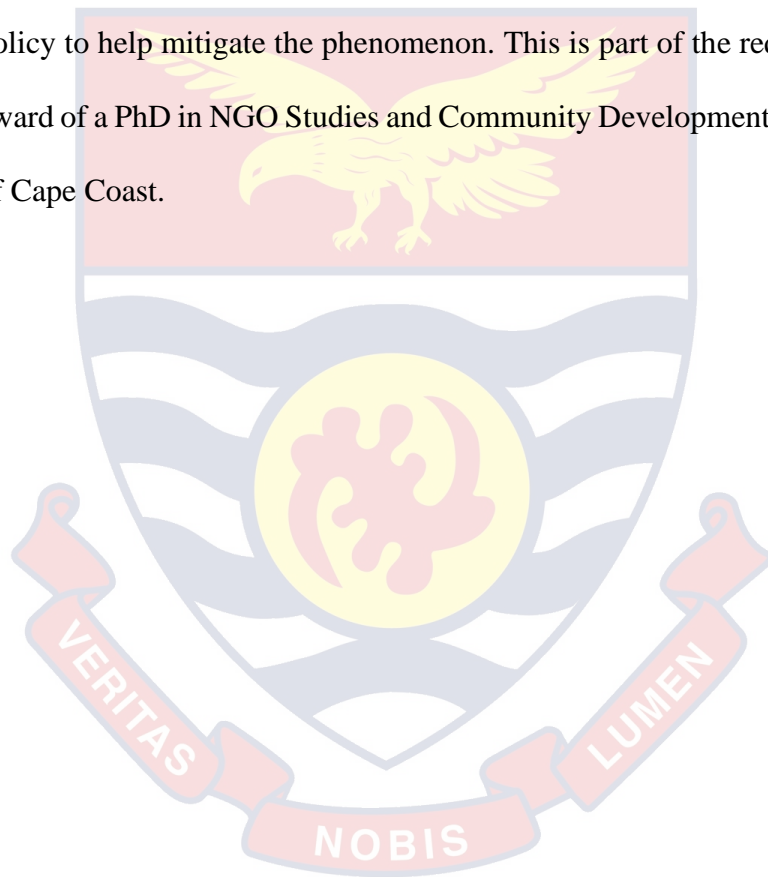
.	Providing an elaborate intervention plan that follows the standard practice of providing care for children by organization					
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## APPENDIX C

### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD PROSTITUTES IN SOME SELECTED TOWNS IN WESTERN REGION OF GHANA

The purpose of this study is to determine the factors that contribute to child prostitution in the Western Region of Ghana in order to help provide data on child prostitution in the Region to support NGOs and MMDAs to formulate policy to help mitigate the phenomenon. This is part of the requirement for the award of a PhD in NGO Studies and Community Development at the University of Cape Coast.



## APPENDIX D

### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: PERCEPTIONS OF CHILD PROSTITUTES IN SOME SELECTED TOWNS IN WESTERN REGION OF GHANA

At which level of your formal education that your first had sex experience?

Describe the person you had that experience with (possible answers: fellow pupil/student, a teacher, a relative, an adult in community, a 'good Samaritan' etc.). How did it happen (possible answers: consent, rape, incest etc.)?

1. Did you regret your first sex experience? In what ways has that contributed to your engagement in commercial sex work?
2. How would you describe your engagement in prostitution? A) a full time job B) fun C) part-time
3. Who introduced you to this practice?
4. Is your engagement in prostitution a voluntary one or under compulsion from somebody? If under compulsion, who is forcing you into it? What is the penalty of disobeying that person(s)?
5. For how long have you been in this trade?
6. Are you a member of any association/group of commercial sex workers? If yes, what kind of support do you receive from the group/association?
7. Your work may expose you to several STIs. How do you receive education on to protect yourself from them?
8. Have you ever considered leaving this trade?
9. Have you ever stopped the practice/trade, and came back to it?
10. Is/was any of your relatives a commercial sex worker? If yes, does that person know you are one?

11. How would you feel if close relatives/friends know that you are a commercial sex worker?
12. Should you have children in the future, would you like any of them to be a commercial sex worker?
13. What plans do you have regarding your future career?

