CHILD MIGRATION TO ISLAND COMMUNITIES, ALONG THE VOLTA LAKE OF GHANA

BY

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON, IN PARTIAL FULLFILMENT OF THE MASTER OF ART (MA) DEGREE

JULY, 2014
DECLARATION

I declare that except for references to works which have been duly cited, this dissertation is the result of my original research and that, it has neither in whole nor in part been presented for another degree elsewhere.

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SUPERVISOR

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PROF. S.O. KWANKYE     DATE
ABSTRACT

Child migration has existed for several decades globally and Ghana is of no exception. Even though this phenomenon has received research attention and has become one of the most researched areas in Ghana, most of the studies have largely focused on child rural-urban migration and their activities and experiences in the major cities of Ghana. It is against this background that, this study sought to find out how child migrants in some Island communities in the Volta Region of Ghana get to their destination, the experiences they go through and the effects it has on the child migrant in relation to their education. The study used a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches involving 60 respondents which included rescued child migrants, teachers, biological parents who responded to questionnaires and in-depth interviews for data collection for the study. SPSS was used to descriptively analyse the data and the results were presented in tables and figure. The study found that the migrant children are engaged in fishing and cattle herding. Although the initial monetary token given to the parents according to most mothers was used as seed money for their petty trading and as a means for the biological parents to solve their own economic and social challenges, the more than half of rescued child migrants described their condition with their foster parents as bad due to the maltreatment they received. With regards to education, most of the children said there were no schools on the islands. Also, the study shows that rescued child migrants attach seriousness to learning at both study areas. The study on child migration found out that, all the forms of work performed by these child migrants interfere with their education and development. The kind of work that, the child migrants are engaged in prevents them from pursuing their education, makes them to be treated like slaves, deprives them of good nutrition, adequate rest and exposes them to being beaten by foster
parents. These adverse kinds of conditions child migrants are exposed to, should be discouraged.

DEDICATION

This Dissertation is dedicated to my mother Regina Serwaa Codjoe
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I want to register my sincerest gratitude to God Almighty who granted me life and grace to produce this work. I am grateful for the wonderful contributions and valuable suggestions of my supervisor, Professor S.O Kwankye who helped in shaping this dissertation. In fact, I count it a great privilege knowing him and being under his wonderful supervision. He exposed me to useful literature regarding my area of research, and withheld nothing good from me. I say thank you. May God richly bless you in all your pursuits.

To all the lecturers of the Centre for Migration Studies, Thank you for your advice and help. I am grateful to Dr. Delali Badasu, the head, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, for her comments and encouragement. To all my colleagues I say ayekoo!!! I also wish to thank the following for their financial, moral and spiritual support: my uncle Mr. Jacob Kwame Kholi, my aunt Hon. Helen Adjoa Ntoso and my dear wife Gifty Ohenewa Osei Tutu. To my headteacher, John Kpevu, for his encouragement, I am also thankful to my little son, Jacob Osei tutu, who has been an inspiration to me; I say a big thank you. Thanks for everything, your encouragement, prayers, and motivation. I wish to express my thanks to all colleagues, friends, god-fathers and spiritual mothers.

I am also grateful to Seth Baah and Gakpo John who helped me in collecting data and Dora Mansah Atsem for typesetting the sentences used in this work. I wish to say that, this Dissertation would not have been possible without the help of all my informants at Mafi-Devime, Management of PACODEP in Kete-Krachi and all others that I have not been able to mention. I am grateful to you all.

Thank you.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACHD-</td>
<td>African Centre for Human Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPLE-</td>
<td>Association of People for Practical Life Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSW-</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS-</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO-IPEC-</td>
<td>International Labour Organization – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM-</td>
<td>International Organization for Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO-</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPA-</td>
<td>National Plan of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACODEP-</td>
<td>Partners in Community Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR-</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF-</td>
<td>United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID-</td>
<td>United States Assistance for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIMPOC-</td>
<td>Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour</td>
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The global migration of persons less than 18 years is increasing in absolute numbers, but there is a challenge in estimating the number of child migrants due to inappropriate and inadequate records on child migration (Whitehead and Hashim 2005). Article 3 (d) of the UN Protocol on The Prevention of Child Trafficking defines a child as “any person under eighteen years of age” (UN, 2000). Child migration has existed as a challenge for countries within the third world many centuries ago. Children in several countries in Africa are migrating either on their own or with adults for a wide range of reasons including chronic poverty, resulting from the inability of parents’ to take care of them. There are some also who migrate for adventure (Kwankye et al., 2009).

Even though this aspect of child migration is not a new phenomenon, it is quite a novel area when it comes to academic and policy debates. According to Punch (2007), some studies consider child migration as a new phenomenon because, in terms of the migration and development literature, the issue of child migration has largely been ignored until recently. The majority of the work on migration has revolved around the adult population neglecting the phenomenon of child migration. Children are either coerced by their parents or trafficked by others (Hashim, 2006).

Recently, the migration of children, particularly from northern to southern Ghana and from less resourced localities to the major cities and towns which could also involve child migrants
from the southern Volta to Northern Volta, has become a subject of increasing concern for Ghana’s national development. Data from the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection show that, internal human trafficking is widespread and stands at 69.8 per cent whiles that of cross-border trafficking is at 30.2 percent, (Ghana News Agency, (GNA, 2010). The literature on migration documents three major forms of child migration. There are children who migrate with their parents or with adult family members; those who migrate on their own commonly referred to by researchers as independent child migrants and those who are trafficked. Such trafficked children usually have their migration negotiated between their parents and the traffickers with little or no involvement of the children in the migration decision-making process.

The culture of child care in the Ghanaian setting often blurs the dangers that these children are most often predisposed to. Mazzucato (2008) stated that, child fostering is a normal practice in Ghana. In her view, it is even normal in rural areas, where child fostering is an age-old tradition. Under this Practice, it is perfectly normal for a grandmother, an uncle or an aunt to take part in the upbringing, or for a brother/sister without children of his/her own to be sent a niece or nephew to live with him or her. This way, family members support each other and it also strengthens the family bond. Children may even migrate to farther places to live with family members and friends of family for education and apprenticeship. This is exactly the practice of the people of Tongu along the Volta Lake in Ghana. As part of her performance on the Ghana’ Most Beautiful Competition, held, on 16th October, 2013’ the Volta Regional representative made a profound statement bordering on what parents do with their children, instead of educating them. According to her, “Parents from my area (Tongu) are fond of sending their children to live with family members in Island communities along the Volta Lake” for yonder pastures (dzigbe). She then went on to advise parents to stop that practice and spend resources on the children’s education (tv3network.com\Ghana). This
results from the fact that most of these children who are mostly of school going age are denied their right to basic education including other fundamental human rights. Child labour and abuse are a common experience of children in these areas (IOM, 2000). There are even instances where this benign cultural practice is abused and ends up in children being trafficked (Adepoju and Wiel 2010). According to IOM (2000), child trafficking in Ghana is partially related to child fostering: “Traditionally it has been a common practice for poor parents to hand over their children to be looked after by relatives and friends. Traffickers are now exploiting this age-old benevolent tradition resulting in parents inadvertently but effectively selling their children (Anarfi et al., 2003:24). out to these child traffickers.

The decision to migrate and why these children migrate are questions that require research to provide answers to. A World Bank (2008) report deduced from census data in 12 destinations that a considerable number of children migrated without their parents. Girls are found to be more likely to migrate independently than boys. The (2008) Ghana Living Standard Survey estimated that, a little over half (52 %) of the population aged seven years and older in Ghana are highly mobile. According to some child migrants from the northern regions of Ghana interviewed in Accra and Kumasi, most of the child migrants migrated out of their own desire to earn some income at the destination areas so that they can return home to support their parents and siblings (Anarfi and Kwankye, 2005).

In a study conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service, (2003) among 9,889 households of migrant children, it was found that, parents also play a very important role in encouraging children to migrate, It further revealed that, about 37.4 percent of the migrant children were sent by their parents, 9.3 percent moved with parents whereas 7.2 percent were forced to move because of parental death. In addition, education and training were also very significant.
reasons for child migration and accounted for about 31.2% of child migrants. A few (4.5%) of the migrant children seem to have moved for job-related reasons whereas unspecified reasons accounted for about 9.5 percent of child migration (Edmonds and Shrestha, 2009).

The island communities along the Volta Lake are known to be one of the famous destination areas of child migrants and trafficked children. The Ghana News Agency May 13, 2011, reported that 116 children between the ages of four and 17 years were rescued from communities along Lake Volta which links the country’s northern savannah with the coast after they had been trafficked from the country’s Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, and Volta regions (Awuni, 2011 as cited in Mitchell, 2011:1). This confirms the findings of IOM that over 1,000 school aged children had been trafficked and were working in the fishing industry in the Volta Region of Ghana (Anarfi et al., 2003).

As part of their migration experience, they are mostly plunged into child labour, which is the end result of their adventure as independent migrants and eventually become vulnerable. Child labour can be seen as the regular participation in the labour force to earn a living to supplement household income. Over the past decade, the ‘trafficked’ child has become increasingly visible in public and policy discourse on the suffering of children who move on their own. This study, therefore, seeks to understand the processes of child migration to the communities along the Volta Lake, the forms of abuse that they experience and how these affect them.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As stressed by Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF on UN children’s day against Child Labour on, June 12, 2003, children’s vulnerability is being taken advantage of by
traffickers who see children as commodities, more easily manipulated, in high demand and vulnerable to exploitation over a long period. The ILO estimates that in 2008, there were 215 million child labourers worldwide. This figure represents a three percent decrease from 2004 and 12 percent decrease from 2000. Child labour is perpetrated in almost every sector of the society. Children harvest cotton in Uzbekistan, work as domestic servants in Haiti and mine diamonds in the Central African Republic. In East Africa, children who are trafficked are sometimes recruited as child soldiers by War Lords, while some migrant children are engaged in the fishing industries in Ghana (Tangey and Oguah, 2002).

Despite the fact that the major drive to child migration in Ghana is economic, the role of social and cultural drivers cannot be underestimated (Punch, 2007). As pointed out by Kwankye et al. (2007), some children migrate independently to pursue a variety of non-economic objectives, such as societal norms and values about migration, serve as marriage incentives, or for the attainment of knowledge and status that often comes as being a child migrant. However those who migrate with the aim of mobilizing funds to educate themselves get engrossed with the money they earn and abandon their initial aim (Awumbila et al, 2008).

Major studies conducted in the area of child migration, have over the years been centered on the north-south pattern and its effects in terms of education, health and socio cultural practice against child migrants (Kwankye et al, 2009), while a few studies have looked at the trafficking of children to fishing communities (Golo, 2005). Not much work has been done in the area of south-north child migration and the forms of abuse that these migrant children go through. It is important to note that not all children within the Island communities have been trafficked; there are some who are there by virtue of fostering and child placement per the cultural practices of their origin. However, the forms of abuse and its effects on these migrant children do not depend on the form by which one got to the destination (Hashim, 2006).
The Millennium Development Goal one is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger between 1990 and 2015, reduce the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. Although the minimum wage currently is more than the stipulated one dollar per day it particularly does not trickle down to the informal sector in the rural areas. This has accounted for the poverty gap between the north and the south.

Millennium Development Goal Two also intends to achieve universal primary education to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. However the available information suggests most internal migrant children have no access to education. Kwankye et al (2009) reveals that 80% of child migrants are not in school, and 19.9% are in school. This, therefore, suggests missing the opportunity of educating the Ghanaian children.

Migration of children in Ghana is a common practice. Children are allowed to live with relatives and friends or relatives who live outside the home region, but the concern is with the experiences of these child migrants and their future. As part of their migration experience, they are mostly plunged into situations that compel them to become child labourers which make them vulnerable. Child labour can be seen as the regular participation in the labour force to earn a living or to supplement household income. Over the past decade, child migrants have become increasingly visible in public and policy discourse on their suffering but no much effort has been made to find ways of alleviating their plight.

According to Golo (2005), economic hardships have compelled some parents to give out their children in some cases as into bonded labour as the shortest means of solving their own economic and social challenges. In the same vein, the economic circumstances at the destinations which are the Island Communities in this case result in pressure and competition for scarce resources at the fishing sector which is the main occupation in these communities
and this also re enforces the use of child labour in its worst form to cut down costs. These children are therefore exposed to hazardous and exploitative working conditions and environments which are dangerous to their health and physical development.

Although measures have been put in place to curb the maltreatment of children including migrant children, little has been done to ensure the strict enforcement of these measures. The National Labour Act (Act 651, 2003) and the Children’s’- Act (Act, 560, 1998) have all sought to protect the rights of children from all forms of abuse but these challenges continue to prevail.

According to the Children’s Act, the minimum age for the engagement of a child in light work shall be thirteen years.

Light work is seen as work which is not likely to be harmful to the health or development of the child, and which does not affect the child's attendance at school or the capacity of the child to benefit from school work” (Children’s Act 560, 1998: Section 90).

As a result of the geographic nature of the study area (Island Communities in the Volta Region), the political agencies that are responsible for enforcing this provision of the Children’s Act are ill-resourced in terms of the requisite training, provisions of logistics and shelter for the purpose of rescue and rehabilitation. In addition, the political will to tackle this issue seriously has been weakened over the years.

It is therefore very appropriate to research into the forms of child migration into these communities, the experiences of such child migrants and to find out what efforts have been put in place to curb them and their associated challenges.
1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study seeks to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of how children migrate to their destination and the forms of abuse migrant children face and the possible effects this has on their lives.

The specific objectives are as follows:

i. To describe the socio-demographic characteristics of child migrant within the Island communities.

ii. To explore the condition the child migrants lives in at the study area.

iii. To examine the effects of the conditions child migrants go through with regards to the education of child migrants.

iv. To make recommendations to curb the child migration for the good of the children’s feature.

1.4 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The study would contribute to the increase in knowledge about internal migration of children by coming out with findings that makes the culture of child fostering and placement abused.

The study intends to bring out the processes under which children migrate and become exposed to abuses. Again, the study would inform policy makers to come out with a pragmatic policy in relation to child migration as Ghana goes through the process of formulating a migration policy. Although Ghana has a human trafficking law, (Act 694), the findings from this research would go a long way to inform policy makers in a way that would assist them in doing a better work with regards to the ongoing amendment process of the
current law. The institution mandated to fight this menace would have a better understanding that would equip them in tackling the issue.

It is important to note that, not much is known about the situation of child migrants in the islands communities, and therefore, the study will bring out findings to inform policy decisions towards addressing the negative ramifications of migration into these island communities in the Volta Region.

1.5 DEFINITION OF MAIN CONCEPTS

- **Rescued child migrants in a shelter**: Children who have migrated from Mafi-Devime (origin) to Krachi (destination), either by themselves or through foster parents for placement arrangement, and have been reintegrated.

- **Child migrants who are not in a shelter but reintegrated to their families**: Children who have not migrated and living with their biological parents and are schooling with child migrants at both the source and destination.

- **Foster parents**: The people under whose custody the child migrant rescued. Teachers: the teachers that have been employed to teach both child migrant and non-child migrant at both destination and origin.

- **Biological parents**: The persons who gave birth to a child who has become a migrant.
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews some relevant literature on migration issues in Ghana generally and some parts of the world. It further reviews literature on theoretical issues relating to child migration. The reviews also focus on studies carried out on child migration in Ghana and the effects of migration on child migrants with regards to their education.

2.2 MIGRATION IN THE PAST

Migration, according to Adepoju (2005), is a way of life and in response to pressure due to population, political, economic and socio-cultural phenomena. However, migration has changed from constant movement to one of sedentary life with occasional movements among all races (Anarfi 2014).

According to Anarfi (2013), between 1980 and 2000, migration increased markedly from 100 million to 175 million at the rate of 2.8% which is faster than other periods since 1960. International migrants grew rapidly in developing countries after 1980 and slowly in less developed countries; but the number hardly changed in the 1990s. Currently, the United States accounts for a fifth of all international migrants in the world. It is also important to acknowledge the fact that the migration of women has increased from 47% in 1960 to 49% as at 2000. This, therefore, indicates a substantial increase in the world migration flow over the past decade.
Awumbila and Manuh (2008: 3), as cited in Abutima (2012) argue that “by the 1980’s, migration had become a coping strategy for individuals and families particularly in West Africa and migration especially to Europe and America had become one of the surest means of acquiring skills and also improving the living standards of both the skilled and unskilled labour force. By the 1990s, it was estimated that between two and four million Ghanaians, or 10 to 20 percent of Ghana's approximately 20 million people, were living abroad. Skilled workers and professionals dominated early flows from Ghana, but, by the 1980s, many semi-skilled and unskilled workers chose to leave as well”.

The population of migrants in the world is reported as 3 percent (UN, 2002), based on documented migrants, which stands to suggest that if undocumented migrants are also considered, it is likely to rise above the three per cent worldwide.

“Migration movements have been a feature of Africans in the past and are one of its most important demographic features at the present day” (Anarfi 1982 as cited in Anarfi et al, 2003:5). Massive exploitation of Africa’s natural resources resulted in the movement of large numbers of people from their origin to a destination where they were used as labourers (Adepoju 2010). What is interesting is the fact that the children are involved in these movements.

It has been acknowledged that migration in Africa is complex and dynamic. (Adepoju 2010). International migration within West Africa, and between the regions and the rest of the continent, dates back to time immemorial (Arhin 1978 as cited in Abutima, 2012). It is further explained that, a lot of the migration among West African neighbours is a result of past cultures and colonial ties (Adepoju 2005, 2010).

The international movement of people and goods in West Africa was facilitated by the establishment of ECOWAS in 1975 and the subsequent Protocol on Free Movement of
Persons and the Right of Residence and Establishment (1979) which was ratified by the member states of ECOWAS in 1980s (Anarfi, 2013). These events, therefore, served as impetus for mass movement of West Africans in the 1980s. Again, it was extended outside the continent of Africa, due mainly to the fact that there has been improvement in transportation and telecommunication coupled with cheaper fares in transportation. Another crucial reason assigned to this mass movement as cited in Abutima (2012) was due; to the ecological, economic and political discrepancies in the country at the time. This period commonly termed the “dark age of Africa” saw a mass emigration of Ghanaians characterized by skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour migrants in search of better conditions of living and for their human capital maximization and development.

2.3 MIGRATION TRENDS

Data on child migration has been difficult and unreliable over the years and this is because children are not seen separately from adults most of the time (Westin, 2002). This notwithstanding, Iversen (2002) suggests that very young males from rural Karnataka in India leave for the city in considerable numbers for jobs. Also, findings from Caouette (2001) suggest that young children along the borders of China, Myanmar and Thailand are those who migrated to find work.

Some studies on child labour, conducted by the ILO’s Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) also contain information on child migration. Based on the 1996 Migration and Employment Survey, their study in Nepal showed that of child migrants aged 5-17 years, about one-third had migrated for economic reasons (Kumar et al 1997). Two-thirds of these children were in India and one-third in other areas in Nepal. Just over one per cent of the children’s population of this age range had moved from their place of
origin for economic reasons (about 80,000). Many more of these were male rather than female. Working migrants represented 3.4% of the total number of children in this age group. A further 120,000 children aged 5-17 years were identified as child migrants who moved for non-economic reasons, but were also undertaking economic occupations before and after their move. More of these migrants were female and living in Nepal, and might well have migrated to marry, but 53,000 (44%) were in India, predominantly in cities and towns, (Kumar et al, 1997).

In Africa, Keilland and Sanogo (2002) found that 9.5% of Burkinabe children aged 6-17 years lived outside the proximity of their parents. Of these, 30.4% live in another village, 40% have left for cities, and 29% are abroad, most often in La Côte d’Ivoire (22%).

The Ghana Child Labour study also gives a national picture of the kinds of migration undertaken by children looking only at households within Ghana (Ghana Statistical Service, 2003). The study found that 11 percent of the children in households surveyed were no longer living in their place of origin. Fifty-four percent of these children had migrated involuntarily’, with ten percent moving with their parents while, seven percent have moved because of the loss of a parent. Another 37 percent have also been sent by parents to live with their current households. This means that, 46 percent of the migrants had migrated independently on their own.

This phenomenon has been necessitated by varied reasons among which economics reasons and the development disparity between the north and the south have remained paramount in understanding migration of children from northern to southern Ghana.
As Kwankye et al (2009) describe it:

While conscious efforts were made to develop the forest and coastal belts for the production of minerals, cash crops and timber for export, facilitated by the creation of transport links, ports and harbours on the coast, the North was virtually left behind, resulting in a spatial dichotomy with a relatively developed South and a largely undeveloped North.

According to Awumbila and Schandorf (2008: 171), cited in Shamsu-Deen (2013), Ghana is not an exception as migration has become a common household survival strategy and the most basic survival strategy for individual and families to enable them cope with the economic difficulties and other unfavourable conditions. However, migration from the northern part of Ghana comprising the Northern, Upper East and the Upper West regions to the perceived economically rich regions in the southern Ghana particularly Accra and Kumasi has been taking place for a very long time due to environmental, poverty and other related issues.

However, the migration flow is not a north-south phenomenon only but flows in all directions depending on the interest of the individual migrant. It is also a phenomenon that includes the young and old, particularly those who are energetic and these, obviously, includes children and, young adults. However, Hashim (2006) argues that the vast majority of children were not compelled to migrate.

Majority of the child migrants were asked to join their guardians under the practice of child fostering and placement at tender age of seven years (Golo 2005). Another pattern of human mobility which is commonly observed in Ghana is linked with socio-cultural practices where child mobility through child-attachment to well-to-do extended family members for apprenticeship and good upbringing takes place. And because parents are accustomed to the
placement of their children with other family members, the idea of giving them away to unknown persons through familiar and trusted individuals is not a big deal (Tengey and Oguaah 2001:81).

This further brings to the fore persons who serve as intermediaries of child migration who are mostly related to biological parents of the child migrants. These intermediaries promise parent of putting these children into good schools and getting a good environment for the child’s safety and development and so parent on that score hand over these children to them. Again, in some settings, some of the children are given out under the condition that, they would serve in various farming practices for a number of years, and then get a small proportion of whatever they helped to produce, such as cattle, pigs’ sheep and goat.

However these promises turned out to be tricks of getting the children trafficked. In the view of Golo (2005), there are great concerns of child trafficking situations in the country where children are 'sold' or put in bonded labour to fishermen by their parents or intermediaries along the Volta Lake.

2.4 ACTIVITIES OF CHILD MIGRANTS

As cited in Agbenya, (2005), in a study conducted by the ILO – IPEC Action Programme in 2002, in Kampong Cham and Siem Reap, trafficked children are used as labourers in the brick making - sector.

They perform duties such as mud-kneading, mud-moulding, drying, carriage to the kilns, fuelling the wood–fired kilns, removing the bricks from the kiln to be cooled and the carrying of finished bricks for transport.
In Ghana, majority of the child migrants found in Kumasi and Accra from the north work as porters while those found along the Volta Lake are into fishing and fish processing (females), according to Golo, (2005).

2.5 MIGRATION AND GENDER

A 2008 World Bank Report based on censuses from 12 destination countries showed that a considerable number of migrant children were living without their parents. Also, girls are slightly more likely to migrate independently compared to boys and the likelihood that a child will migrate independently increases substantially with age (Glinda 2010).

A survey of independent child migrants en route from Nepal to India records that 87% of the child migrants were boys (Glinda 2010). Again, a study in Benin found that it was mostly boys who had gone abroad and that girls were more likely to migrate internally (Kielland 2009). In the same vein, in Burkina Faso drew similar conclusions, stating that most visible urban child migrants were boys, and most girl migrants had migrated to rural areas closer to home (Thorsen 2009). Another study in Burkina Faso observed that 70 percent of the migration was internal and girls were twice as likely as boys to migrate from rural areas (Kielland and Sonogo, 2009).

It has also been acknowledged that at the turn of the last decade, migration of young girls and women to the commercial cities in Ghana to work as head porters popularly known as Kayayei has increased several folds creating streams of problems to both the migrants and the host population, (Shamsu-Dean 2013).

In acknowledgement of these forms of migration, it is important to note that each of the phenomena has a unique direction of flow. For example, in terms of north-south it is mainly
for the purpose of working as head porter particularly for the females, while the reverse flow is usually towards the fishing industry along the Volta. While the north–south flow is mainly rural – urban, the south –south flow is rural – rural migration.

Brydon (1985) found an increase in child fostering in the Volta Region in Ghana due to women’s labour migration. This makes it difficult to differentiate between the criminal aspects from the cultural value of the Ghanaian society. Again the north–south phenomenon is purely for economic reasons.

2.6 THE MAGNITUDE OF CHILD MIGRATIONS

In recent times, child migration has particularly been high in the West African and Bangladeshi localities. Hashim, (2007) reveals that child migration rates in Karnataka display considerable intra- and inter-district variations. Child migration accounts for about 20 percent of all recent migration events in Honnavara found in the Mandya District. In Innanje, a village in the coastal belt, the corresponding figure for child migration is about 4% (Whitehead, Hashim and Iversen, 2007).

In other selected African countries, the proportions of children aged between 10 and 14 years not living with their mothers varies from 11.4 to 29.4 percent. The figures for the younger age group, 5-9 years is not so high, but it represents a sizeable proportion of the age group experiencing migration measured in this way. Rates vary from 7.7 percent to 18.2 percent, (Whitehead et al, 2007)

The (2008) Ghana Living Standard Survey estimated that, a little over half (52 %) of the population aged seven years and older in Ghana are highly mobile. The reason given by some child migrants from the northern regions of Ghana to Accra and Kumasi was that, most of the
child migrants migrated out of their own desire to earn some incomes in destination areas so that they can return home to support their parents and siblings (Anarfi and Kwankye, 2005).

This information shows an increase in child migration from the north to the south of which Kumasi is said to have the highest number of child migrants from the north (Anarfi et al, 2009). Overall, the sex distribution shows that a lot more females than males are involved in the north-south migration in both destinations, with a wider margin of difference between the sexes in Accra than in Kumasi.

The use of migrant children for fishing along the Volta Lake is another important area of child migration. Fishing along the Volta Lake is an industry that is generally made up of people of low income, most especially those that have relocated from the coast due to high competition between the locals and foreign fishing trolley. Hence in order to maximize profit, these fishermen tend to employ the services of children who have been trafficked or are staying with the fishermen as foster relations. This cheaper livelihood strategy has, therefore, become an endemic practice of fisher folks along the Volta Lake.

Golo (2005) argues that the relocation of these fisher folks leads to competition for scarce resources which is the cause of poverty, hence compelling them to be involved in child labour including its worst forms of trafficking. This view is supported by the revelation from the 2010 census that: of the children aged 5-14 years who were working, 82.9 percent were engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing, the proportion for males and females being 87.6 percent and 77.8 percent respectively, Ghana Statistical Service (2010).

Over 95 percent of the children who were employed were contributing family workers, with similar proportions for males and females, Ghana Statistical Service, (2010). This is expected as these are young persons, most of who cannot be on their own. The rest consisted of 3.6 percent of self-employed children: 3.8 percent for females and 3.4 percent for males. In rural
areas, 96.4 percent of the working children compared to 89.1 percent among those in the urban areas were contributing family workers.

The islands along the Volta Lake, however, are into farming-/fishing-/ animal husbandry. It is also known that due to the increasing levels of poverty as a result of high cost of fishing materials and the decline in the level of fish in the Lake, coupled with the fact that, there is an increasing knowledge of trafficked children being used for fishing some of the people dwelling on the Island have decided to diversify their income by going into pastoralism on the Islands using these same children. In view of their vulnerability, child migrants’ eventually become child labourers, bonded slaves, labour trafficked children and street children (Whitehead et al, 2007). They are also denied health care and education since their destination may not necessarily have health and educational facilities.

2.7 REASONS FOR CHILD MIGRATION

Some migration has been stimulated by resettlement and relocation policies which have been implemented in response to the ongoing political conflict in Myanmar (Burma) and efforts to develop the country (Caouette 2001: 40).

High rates of HIV and AIDS infection also trigger child migration in a number of contexts. In a research for the UK Department for International Development DFID, a detailed study of young AIDS migrants in Southern Africa suggests that they migrate in response to a number of difficulties, such as treatment by the foster family, rivalry between children and, disrupted schooling (Ansell and Young 2002).

In a study conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service, (2003) among 9,889 households of migrant children, parents are identified to play a very important role in encouraging children
to migrate. This study further revealed that, about 37.4 percent of the migrant children were sent by their parents, 9.3 percent moved with parents whereas 7.2 percent were forced to move because of the death of their parents. In addition, education and training were also very significant reasons for child migration and accounted for about 31.2 percent of child migrants. A few (4.5 percent) of the migrant children seem to have moved for job-related reasons whereas unspecified reasons accounted for about 9.5 percent of the child migration (Edmonds and Shrestha, 2009).

The reasons why children’ migrate are complex and are linked with the economic status of the family and the child’s understanding about this and influenced by the shared cultural and social ideas about the kind of work that is acceptable for children at different ages and about children’s participation in economic activities. The motivation for a child’s migration often includes the child’s own desire to earn an income (Anarfi et al, 2005:3).

Child migration is part of the strategies children and their families adopt to deal with external shocks that come with poverty. Children in Ghana are stimulated by many and varied factors to migrate. Most child migrants in the world and Ghana in particular are motivated by economic factors, which include searching for paid work, having better access to public and recreational services and training or schooling. Kwankye et al. (2007) revealed that, some children migrate independently to pursue a variety of non-economic objectives.

Culture, history and migration have always been inseparable tradition such that; the linkage between them has been fluid. Several studies have pointed to the fact that child migration is predominant in areas that have a history of high out-migration. For these people, both young and old, migration is perceived as a learning experience and part of the transition to adulthood. Studies have revealed that most of the child migrants often see migration at an earlier age in one’s life as an opportunity to develop one’s independence and autonomy to
learn about life in the city as well as for adventure. There are also cases where some girls are forced to migrate to escape certain cultural practices like female circumcision and forced marriages which are common practices in the northern part of the country.

However, there are pockets of children also coming from other rural deprived areas in every part of the country. A casual interaction with child migrants in Accra shows that some of them came from the Volta, Central and Western regions notwithstanding the fact that the bulk of them come from the three northern regions.

In conclusion, the literature reviewed so far has not suggested any means by which child migrants’ move to the island communities along the Volta Lake.

Regardless of work status and/or migrant status, the literature reveals that, universal right of children to education is not being ensured. In developing economies, child labour is often perpetrated at the expense of education, which makes it an important issue warranting further analysis (Verner 2000).

In summary, it is evident from the discussions above that child migration is a major problem affecting many countries in the world and many of the children (victims) are been denied their rights and freedom and the difficult aspect of this problem is the lack of resources to collect reliable data indicating the flow of child migration (from the source to the destination). This makes it very difficult for countries to properly address this problem because there is no reliable data to help know the magnitude of the problem they are trying to solve. Though the various countries have laws dealing with prosecution of offenders of child trafficking and child labour, most of the countries hardly enforced those laws due to the lack of adequate materials needed thereby allowing the practice to continue.
2.7 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Several theories can be associated with child migration and its implications on the child migrants, families and to a large extent the nation. For the purpose of the analyses in this study, this work is conceived in the Social Protection theory. Social protection resonates with several definitions by different authorities. Social protection emerged out of the livelihood portfolio theory by de Neubourg (2009), who argues that, the welfare pentagon represents the five core institutions that households use in satisfying current and future needs in a given society: family, markets, social networks, membership of institutions and public authorities.

It is seen as a set of “public actions taken in response to levels of vulnerability, risk, and deprivation which are deemed socially unacceptable within a given polity or society” (Conway, de Haan et al. 2000).

The World Bank, for example, defines social protection as consisting of public interventions “to assist individuals, households and communities in better managing income risks” (Holzmann and Jorgensen 1999: 4).

The ILO, on the other hand, sees social protection as defined by basic right.

Social protection generally involves the measuring of the levels of deprivation, vulnerability and risk of individual, households and communities, in order to design a merited social intervention policy to save the situation. In the areas where this study was undertaken, the family is the immediate source of social protection. Parental responsibility towards children includes: providing the basic needs of children such as food, shelter and clothing can be said to be a form of a social protection.

However, when parents are deprived, they are unable to provide these basic needs, hence making them dysfunctional in carrying out their family roles. When it happens this way,
children become more vulnerable by becoming adventurous in an attempt to look for their own means of survival which can result in child migration. Some families tend to even encourage the children to migrate.

Social protection theory brings out well integrated programme coordination that benefits the children in their education, reduce poverty of their parents through micro-credit programmes aimed at training the deprived rural folks to improve on their traditional occupation methods without the use of children and or allow the children to migrate on their own or through special arrangements.
CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The study employed both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The quantitative research methodology was adopted to help find out differences in the academic performance of child migrants under shelter and others who are not under shelter, and other factors that may account for the differences in academic performance between the two groups of child migrants.

The qualitative research methodology on the other hand served as a complement to the findings that were obtained from the quantitative research methodology. SPSS was used to descriptively analyse the data and the results were presented in tables and figure.

3.2 THE STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in two set of communities (Kete – Krachi and Mafi – Devime) all in the Volta Region of Ghana.

Kete – Krachi is the district capital of the Krachi West District and the traditional seat of Krachi, it is situated between the Volta Lake and the River Oti at the East. As at, 2010, the population of Krachi was 65,530 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2010). Over 80 percent of the inhabitants are into farming, fishing and pastoralism.

The ethnic composition of the town is made up of Krachi (Guan), Tongu (Ewe) and Mole Dagbani. While the people of Krachi are predominantly farmers and are located in the mainland, the Tongus are predominantly fishermen as well as pastoralists (Appati, 2012), and are mainly located on the Island communities such as Ogetse, Okpalamakofe, and Bakpa.
As a result of the decline of fishes in the lake, and the increasing cost of fishing, Fishermen have resorted to employing the services of children in the fishing industry to minimize cost. The fishermen, therefore, exploited the age-long fostering and placement culture to bring these children and raised them at the expense of their education, health and other rights since facilities such as school, health centres can only be found in Kete – Krachi. Figure 3.1 shows the study map area of Kete- Krachi showing the Volta Lake.
A Digital Map of Kete-Krachi District

Legend
- Town
- Termite Hill
- Port
- Major Road
- Kete-Krachi Boundary

Source: Author's Own Creation 29/07/2014

Source: CERGIS, 2014
Mafi–Devime, on the other hand, is in the North Tongu District of the Volta Region of Ghana with a population of 49,411 (Central Tongu District Assembly, 2014), and located at the South Western end of the Volta Lake. They are predominantly fishermen and pastoralists but are unable to fish as their main occupation, due to the presence of weeds within the beds of the lake and this has caused abject poverty in the area (Golo, 2005). Biological parents therefore send their children to familiar persons down the lake to Island communities in Krachi as a means of reducing competition on their scarce resources. These children are denied access to health, education and sometimes subjected to abusive treatments.

3.2.1 Facilities Selected in the Study Area

The reason why this study was conducted in a shelter and in a school environment was due to the fact that the central participants were child-migrants who have been rescued and are being kept in a Shelter for the purpose of educating them, whiles others have been reintegrated with their families. Again, since the focus of the study is on their academic performance, the choice of these educational facilities is more appropriate. Also, children from both the Junior High and the primary schools were selected in Mafi-Devime because there were rescued child migrants who are not in the shelter but have reintegrated into the community and are living with their families. These children were examined to find out if there are variations in academic performance between the children in the shelter and those who have been reintegrated. Data were collected from the Shelter (PACODEP) in Kete- Krachi and Mafi–Devime Basic Schools.
3.2.2 Partners in Communities Development (PACODEP)

PACODEP was established in the year 2008 with an initial number of 20 children made up of 10 males and 10 females, the currently, the number of rescued children in the Shelter from the islands is seventy five (75) with 19 staff taking care of them.

PACODEP is responsible for the upkeep of the rescued children including feeding, clothing, shelter and their medical as well as educational bills. Figure 3.2 showing a picture some rescued child migrants in a shelter by PACODEP in Kete-Krachi.

Figure 3.2: The Picture of Rescued Child Migrants in the Shelter

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014
3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN
The research employed a non-probability sampling method to gather relevant information needed for the research within a short time considering the time available and the inexpensive nature of this sampling method which made research easier to be conducted. As cited in Agbenya (2005), Delport et al (2005), state that the varieties of non-probability sampling are accidental, purposive/ judgmental, quota, dimensional, target, snowball and spatial sampling methods. The researcher used purposive and snowball non probability sampling in gathering primary data for the study.

3.4 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES
In connection with the personal interview, purposive sampling was used to select persons to be interviewed. This method was used because the information required could be obtained by virtue of their involvement and their in-depth knowledge concerning the research topic. Those that were interviewed using this method are the children (victims), the teachers at the shelter (Village of Hope and Partners in Community Development Programme (PACODEP) and Mafi-Devime basic schools.

Rescued child migrants (victims) were purposively selected based on experience and period of domicile in the Shelter and reintegration into families at the Mafi-Devime. In this regard the selected rescued child migrants were those who have either been rescued and put in the Shelter or reintegrated into their families for the past six years. The representatives of the NGO, (Village of Hope and Partners in Community Development (PACODEP) and the two schools in Mafi-Devime study area.
Snowballing is known as network, chain referral or reputational sampling (Blaikie, 2000). With this method, respondents were selected through contact information by key informants and other respondents. According to Noy (2008), in order to make a sample of a specific group of respondents, the researcher has to rely on the assistance of the informants to get respondents to be interviewed. This method was used in getting the biological parents through a key informant who is a native of the study area and knew parents who have allowed their children to migrate and have been rescued into the Shelter or reintegrated into their families.

Focus group discussion was employed to get in-depth knowledge on biological parents’ views on child migration and their experiences with regards to fostering and placement culture and its effects on their education and health.

They were categorized into four groups. The first group was child migrants who have been rescued and are in the shelter in Krachi. The second category was rescued child migrants who are not in a shelter but reintegrated into their families in Mafi-Devime. The biological parents of child migrants formed the third group whiles teachers teaching at the facilities where rescued child migrants were found formed the fourth group.

3.5 SAMPLE SIZE

A total of fifty respondents, twenty five rescued child migrants in a Shelter and twenty five child migrants who are not in a Shelter, ten people who were biological parents, and a representative each from the Shelter and the two schools were sampled. The age of these child respondents and participants is between 5 and 18 years. Three in-depth interviews were conducted for biological parents of rescued child migrants in Mafi-Devime. Two headteachers were also interviewed at Mafi-Devime on the performance and conduct of the
rescued children in school. There was a purposive selection of the teachers based on the number of years they have spent with rescued children and their general impression on rescued child migrants. Questionnaires were administered to all sampled rescued child migrants.

3.6 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE
The quantitative data for the study were collected through the use of a questionnaire. The questionnaires were distributed to sampled rescued child migrants in a shelter and rescued child migrants who are not in a shelter but reintegrated into their families in both Krachi and Mafi-Devime. Rescued child migrants in the selected communities responded to the questions that were posed to help make a comparison between child migrants in a shelter and their counterparts who are not in a shelter but have been reintegrated into their families. This provided an opportunity to compare the academic performance between child migrants in the shelter and others who are not in the shelter. The questionnaire comprised four sections. The first three sections of the questionnaire were mostly closed ended questions with few open ended options. The last but one section of the questionnaire offered an opportunity for child migrants to add any information they thought was necessary but has not been addressed in the Questionnaire.

The first section, section A of the questionnaire centered on the demographic background of the children such as age, gender, current and former places of residence, former schools attended (if any), current academic stage and position held in the school. Section B had questions geared towards seeking information on how the child migrant came to his/her foster parents and the where-abouts of their parents, also for both child migrants in the shelter and
child migrant not in the shelter but reintegrated, Questions such as their parents’ educational background.

The final section, which is Section C, provided an opportunity for the children to express their views and to provide additional relevant information on issues that they considered to have been left out in the questionnaire.

The child migrants’ relationship with their foster parents and the sort of assistance they got were paramount during the interview.

The biological parents of child migrants were asked to explain how their children got to the destination, the type of arrangement between them and the foster parents and whether they were in constant touch with their children. The advantages and disadvantages of allowing one child to migrate were also investigated.

All the participants were interviewed in either Ewe or Twi, the two main languages used at both areas of destination and origin and the interviews were recorded on tape alongside field notes; the recorded interviews later being transcribed and analyzed.

3.7 DATA HANDLING

The quantitative data were analyzed using cross tabulations and presented using charts and tables. The recorded qualitative data were also transcribed. Thematic and content analyses were used in discussing the responses from the qualitative interview.
CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSES AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Having established the theoretical background of the study, the purpose of this chapter is to use data from the case study areas to test and investigate if the theoretical issues discussed, in the preceding chapter concerning Child Migration can be extended Child Migration to Island Communities, along the Volta Lake of Ghana.

4.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD MIGRANTS

4.2.1 Sex of child migrants

With regards to age, Figure 4.1 show that, about three-quarters of the migrant children (72 percent) are males and the remaining (28 percent) are females. This could be attributed to the fact that, the nature of the jobs at the destination, including cattle rearing; fishing and farming is predominantly male dominated. This tends to place a higher demand for the males than females.
Interestingly, it was found that female children were also migrated as their male counterparts. It was revealed in the interview with the biological parents that the receiving couples do not have daughters; hence the females were involved in household chores.

### 4.2.2 Age of Child Migrants

Looking at the age distribution in Figure 4.2, a little below half of the child migrants (48 percent) were in the age group 10-14 years. Also, about a third (36 percent) was aged 15-19 and the rest (16 percent) were in the age group 20-24. This signifies that they (respondents) migrated at a very young ages. However, it is worth noting that those in the 20-24 age group were rescued six years ago but were still in the Shelter for the purposes of educating themselves. The age of these children is a cause for concern since those less than 15 are more which could constitute child labour and has implications on the future of the children.
Interaction with the biological parents showed that these children are brought there at younger ages so that they would not be able to trace back the roots when the need arises.

The Ghana Children’s Act (Act 560, 1998) states that, “The minimum age for the engagement of a child in light work shall be thirteen years”, this is a strong basis for anyone, who reads the age statistics above, to posit that the activities of migrant children at the study area is tantamount child labour.

**Figure 4.2: Age of Respondents**

![Age of Respondents](http://ugspace.ug.edu.gh)

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014.

### 4.2.3 Educational Level of Child Migrants

The level of education is indicated in Table 4.1. The highest proportion of the respondents (35 percent) had primary education, then a little under a third (28 percent) had JHS 1 and the rest had attained JHS 3. This implies that the educational attainment of these children is minimal, which could have implications on their future earning capacities; and it stems from the fact that majority of the children fall within the ages of 10 and 14 years, signifying that
they migrated at a very young ages. This also means that, all the children have attended school but the question is, “is it before or after migration?” To answer this, the researcher asked respondents, “Were you schooling before you were brought to the island?” In response, a higher proportion (94%, representing 47) said yes but 3 (6%) said no because they claim they migrated at a very tender age so they do not know.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>70.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHS 1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JHS 3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

4.2.4 The District and Region of Migrant Children’s Parents

In order to identify the places of origin of the child migrants, questions bordering the regions and districts where biological parents of the child migrants can be located were ask. The results, as shown in Table 4.2 indicate that the main district of origin for the child migrants is the Central Tongu District; with about 68 percent of the children reporting that their mothers come from that district and, 66 percent indicating that their fathers are from there. The origin of biological parents from other districts is marginal (Table4.2). With regards to the region of origin, majority of the children (92 percent) have both parents originating from the Volta Region and the rest from the Greater Accra region.

This confirms the assertion by Bubune (Volta Region Representative for Ghana’s Most Beautiful) that, “Parents from my area (Tongu) are fond of sending their children to live with family members in Island communities along the Volta Lake for yonder pastures (Dzigbe).”
Table 4.2: District and Region of Migrated Children’s Parent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Mother</th>
<th></th>
<th>Father</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Tongu</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>66.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Tongu</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Tongu</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mafi Devime</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damgbe East</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prampram Ningo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volta</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>92.0</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Accra</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>96.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

4.2.5 Occupation of Child Migrants' Parents

In order to ascertain the economic conditions of the child migrants, the occupations of their parents were used as proxy. Thus, the study tries to figure out the socio-economic background of each parent of the migrant children to determine if that is the basis for involving them as child migrants. While over a third of the mothers (40 percent) were farmers, a third of them were petty traders. Also, while about 16 percent were housewives, three of them were unemployed (Table 4.3). The occupation of over a third (34 percent) of the fathers on the other hand was not known, and about a quarter (24 percent) were fishermen. Also, a tenth were farmers and six of the fathers were unemployed. This gives the indication that a good number of the parents are gainfully employed. However, the common occupation among the children’s fathers are farming and fishing while on the side of their mothers it is petty trading and farming. These are all lower income-earning occupations; and therefore can be a major factor for child migration to the island. Moreover, majority of those
who answered ‘no idea’ about their parents occupation, could mean that they are either orphans or do not know their parents.

Table 4.3: Occupation of child migrants' parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Mother Frequency</th>
<th>Mother Percent</th>
<th>Father Frequency</th>
<th>Father Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driver</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisherman</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Trader</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Wife</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None (Unemployed)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Idea</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

To explore this further, the persons that the child migrants lived with prior to the migration were examined. The result is as presented in Figure 4.3. Out of 41 child migrants who responded, 62 percent lived with mothers only, six percent lived with fathers only and eight percent lived with grandmothers. This means that majority of the child migrants had single parents, except 6 six percent who asserted they live with both parents. Furthermore, 18 percent of the children did not know whom they lived with. This implies that these children migrated at very young ages, hence their inability to recollect who they were living with before their migration.
4.3 THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH CHILDREN MIGRATE TO THE STUDY AREA

At the destination area (Island communities), it was discovered that, five communities, made up of Bakpa, Okpalamakofe, Ogetse, Cement and Jericho-are involved in this phenomenon but it is more predominant at Ogetse, Bakpa, and Okpalamakofe as shown in Figure 4.4. About a third (34 percent) of the child migrants were, located at the Ogetse Island. This was followed by Bakpa which had over a quartere (26 percent) of the children. The Islands with the least number was Cement, which had 8 percent. This means that Ogetse hosts the greatest number of child migration and child labour in the study area.
4.3.1 How the Children Migrated to the Island

In an effort to reveal the process through which children migrate to the destination area and to achieve the main objective of the study, the respondents, were asked how they came to the Island. From the additional information provided, it was discovered that foster parents (mostly men) go to the house of the children, negotiate with their mothers and pay a little sum of money to the mothers with the promise of going to cater for the needs of the children especially in schooling, as well as financially support the single parents. Moreover, it was found that single parents (mostly mothers) coerce their children to join their relatives and unknown men at the islands in an attempt to avoid the responsibility of caring for the children. This is consistent with the findings of Golo (2005) that, “economic hardships have compelled some parents to give out their children in some cases into bonded labour as the shortest means of solving their own economic and social challenges”.

Table 4.4 gives the details of the process by which the children migrated; it shows that; almost a third little of the children (32 percent) were adopted from their mothers, over a quarter (26 percent) was sent there by their mothers personally and a tenth of the children did
not know how they got there. Again, eight of the children were born on the island but handed over to the fishermen and cattle headsmen by their mothers. This indicates that the mothers played an integral role in getting a greater number of the children to the island. These findings are contrary to the assertion made by Mitchell (2011) that, “majority of children who migrate in Ghana do so voluntarily and are involved in the decision-making process to travel”, rather it confirms strongly, the study conducted by the Ghana Statistical Service (2003) that showed that parents also play a very important role in encouraging children to migrate. This is in consonance with this study where children were adopted illegally according to the classification of The Ghana Children’s Act (Act 560, 1998).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother brought me here</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My brother</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through someone else</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My uncle</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It was my place of birth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was adopted from my mother</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No idea</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014.
4.4 CHILD MIGRANTS’ LIVING CONDITIONS ON THE ISLAND

In all, 36 (72%) of the migrant children live with someone who is foster parents, and only four (8%) live with their own biological parents (Table 4.5). Again, out of those who were living with someone else, seven (14%) claimed that the persons they were living with were their uncles, and three (6%) were not able to identify the sort of person they lived with. In an interview with a biological parent, she revealed that, the children are mostly given out at a young ages, which make them loose track of their parents, and cannot explain who their foster parents are. Further interactions with the children who do not live with any caregiver showed that they came to the community independently and have not been entrusted under the care of any one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caregivers</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Parent</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster Parent</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Relations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

4.4.1 The Provider of Migrant Children’s Basic Needs

The study sought to know who provides the basic needs of the migrant children. The survey discovered that PACODEP provides the basic needs of almost 29 (58%) of the needs child migrants interviewed while 14 (28%) provides their own needs for survival (Figure 4.5). This reaffirms one respondent’s view that, “When they send us here they do not fulfil their (foster parents) agreement with our mothers”.

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The analysis revealed that, although most of the rescued children are in the hands of PACODEP; about 18 percent of them were from Bakpa, and Okpalamakofe eight (16.3%), Ogeste nine (18.4%) and Cement three (6.1%) are catered for by PACODEP while the rest are catered for by their mothers and or themselves. Those catered for by their mothers are the rescued child migrant who have been reintegrated with their families at the sending area. This indicates the economic difficulty they still face in spite of the fact that, they have been rescued and reintegrated with their families. Perhaps this might be due to the financial challenges that persist within the families.

4.4.2 Experience of Rescued Migrant Children Living with Foster Parents

To come out with the experience of child migrants who are not living with their biological parents, the study sought to know how the child migrants felt when they were living with
someone who is not their biological parents. About two-thirds (66 percent) of the children complained to have been beaten with canoe paddles, and about 12 percent indicated that they have been starved. The other details are shown in Table 4.6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaten with canoe paddles</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starved</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denied medical care</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forced to sleep in the bush/canoe</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

From those who gave additional information, they said their foster fathers patiently wait until they get to the deepest part of the lake before they use the canoe paddles on them as a form of punishment.

4.5 FORMS OF ABUSE FACED BY MIGRANT CHILDREN AND THEIR POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THEIR LIVES

In the context of the Ghana Children’s Act, children below 13 years are allowed to do light work and not hard work. Although economic hardship is the major drive to child migration in Ghana, the findings of the study confirms that all the activities involving the migrant children are beyond what the Ghana National Labour Act (Act 651, 2003) and the Children’s Acts (Act 560, 1998) permit. The study discovered that, fishing, farming, cattle herding and sometimes households’ chores are the defined works of the migrant children.

According to those who gave additional information during the interview, at the initial stage, they were solely into fishing until the government, cooperate entities and other non-
governmental organizations intervened with militant and legal actions which forced the foster parents to engage the child migrants into cattle herding as well as farming. Table 4.7 shows the kinds of work and the number of migrant children involved.

### Table 4.7: The Kind of Work Migrant Children Do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle herding</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing and cattle herding</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, farming and cattle herding</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

As seen from the Table 4.7, the dominant activity that the migrant children do is fishing and cattle herding; eight people (16%) were into fishing, twelve (24%) do cattle herding and two (2%) are involved in farming. Some of the children are involved in all three types of work. Concerning the activities within the various towns, further analysis revealed that fishing and cattle herding are the main activities the migrant children are engaged in at the destination communities. However, towns like Cement and Jericho are dominated by both farming and cattle herding.

To determine how long they were made to work, they were asked: “Were you made to work almost all the time”, in response they all spontaneously exclaimed in affirmative’. According to those who gave additional response, majority said they are not allowed to rest; they only rest when they are about to sleep or eat. Deciding to rest comes with beating with canoe paddles and sometimes iron rods. According to one respondent, he was beaten and forced to sleep in a bush when one of the cattle he was made to take care of entered somebody’s farm.
4.6 AFTERMATH EFFECT OF THE ACTIVITY ON THE CHILDREN’S LIFE AND EDUCATION

This section of the study focuses on the effects of the activities child migrants are engage on the lives (in terms of health, and education) of the migrant children after they were rescued from the hands of the foster parents and adopters and given back to their parents and the NGO (PACODEP).

As shown in Table 4.8, almost all the children were schooling before migrating to the Island. The study further examined the educational consequences of the economic activity the migrant children were involved. From the survey, it was revealed that as high as 48 (96%) migrant children were not having access to education on the Island. From the additional data provided, those who do not have access to school said that there is no school at where they were, whilst 2 (4%) said they have access to school at where they were.

Table 4.8 Access to Education on the Islands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Access to Education</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

Due to the laborious nature of the activities and hardships the migrant children went through, it has directly affected their concentration.
Figure 4.6: Children's Response towards their Concentration in Class after their being Rescued

Children's Response Towards Their Concentration in Class

- Yes, frequently: 5 (10%)
- Yes, sometimes: 22 (40%)
- Yes: 22 (44%)
- Missing: 3 (6%)

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

Figure 4.6 above, 94% of the migrant children said; the activity has affected their concentration in class. From the additional information they provided, some explained that they think so much about their deceased parents as well as how to cater for their needs.
A simple cross tabulation was used to analyse the responses as a means of assessing the migrant children who have been rescued and reintegrated into their families as well as in a shelter being managed by PACODEP in Kete-Krachi in terms of their concentration in class after their rescue.

From Table 4.9, it can be observed that majority of the rescued child migrants in a shelter being managed by PACODEP have a problem with concentrating in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant Children’s Response Towards their Concentration in Class After being rescue</th>
<th>Children</th>
<th>Overall Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under PACODEP care</td>
<td>Under Mother Care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>14 (29.8%)</td>
<td>8 (17.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, sometimes</td>
<td>10 (21.3%)</td>
<td>10 (21.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, frequently</td>
<td>1 (2.1%)</td>
<td>4 (8.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25 (53.2%)</td>
<td>22 (46.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014.

Evidently it can also be inferred that, majority of the rescued children whose school are those under the care of PACODEP had challenges with concentration in class. This is probably due to the fact that, they believe they must be part of a family.

On the other hand, when the researcher asked, “Did you have problems concentrating previously”, eight (16%) said ‘No’ and eleven (22%) said ‘Yes, sometimes’. However, a much higher number 31 (representing 62%) did not give response. This means that even before they were rescued, they had a problem with their level of concentration. One can
therefore assert that, the activity has an indelible imprint on the psychological minds of the children aside other implications in their lifestyle.

Concerning the academic performance of the migrant children after being rescued, 16 of them (representing 32%) said their performance was average, 14 (28%) said it was well (good), and 12 of them (24%) indicated that it was progressive. Conversely, another, 4 (8%) migrants gave a lukewarm response and 4 (8%) were dissatisfied with their academic performance. This is shown in the figure 4.7.

**Figure 4.7: Migrant Children's Activity on their Academic Performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Performance</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not Progressive (Standstill)</td>
<td>4 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive (Encouraging)</td>
<td>12 (24%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cannot tell</td>
<td>4 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well (Good)</td>
<td>14 (28%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average (Somehow Good)</td>
<td>16 (32%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014.
For those who gave positive response, they claimed they could read and write. Most of these people are those under the care of PACODEP. A simple cross tabulation was made to prove the claim above by evaluating the performance of the rescued children who are under the care of Parents and PACODEP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant Children’s performance After Rescue</th>
<th>Under PACODEP care</th>
<th>Under Mother Care</th>
<th>Overall Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average (Somehow Good)</td>
<td>11 (22.4%)</td>
<td>5 (10.2%)</td>
<td>16 (32.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well (Good)</td>
<td>9 (18.4%)</td>
<td>5 (10.2%)</td>
<td>14 (28.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I cannot tell</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 (8.2%)</td>
<td>4 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive (Encouraging)</td>
<td>5 (10.2%)</td>
<td>6 (12.2%)</td>
<td>11 (22.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Progressive (Standstill)</td>
<td>2 (4.1%)</td>
<td>2 (4.1%)</td>
<td>4 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 (55.1%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 (44.9%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>49 (100%)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

Although in Table 4.10, majority of the rescued children under the care of PACODEP have problem concentrating in class, it has a minimal effect on their academic performance as shown in table 4.10. From the cross-tabulation, it can be concluded that, migrant children under the care of PACODEP (Village of Hope) perform better (although on a small margin) in education than those under single parent (mother care). Moreover, the above statistics reaffirm the observation that, “majority of migrant children who school after being rescued are under the care of PACODEP”. Those under the care of PACODEP said PACODEP provides all the basic needs they needed for education and for survival. This is the major
contributory factor. However, for those still under the care of their parent, they assert that things are normal as before.

4.7 GENERAL HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL ISSUES OF CHILD MIGRANTS

Table 4.11 displays the health and some issues concerning educational effect that the activity under study has brought on the migrant children. Majority of respondents truthfully asserted that, mostly they have to go for fishing as well as cattle herding before they prepare for school. Others also said that, the foster parents allowed their children to go to school but for them, they are forced to the river side to fish and to grace cattle in the bush.

Table 4.11: Multiple Response Table showing the Implication of the Activity under study on the Children’s Life

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health and Academic Implications</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have developed bad eye sight</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has denied me of (destroyed my) education</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has delayed my education</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have developed hearing impairment due to severe beatings with paddles</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have developed headache due to severe beatings and deep diving</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have developed stomach ulcer due to starvation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has destroyed my life</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author’s Field Survey, 2014

The section of the questionnaire gave the respondents the option to provide additional information which empowered the migrant children to air their grievances. Based on that information, some of the children claimed that they were beaten mercilessly with paddles, which has led to visual and hearing difficulties. Some also claimed they are forced to dive deep into the water, which hurt them leading to severe headache. Regarding starvation, majority of the children claimed that often, they go fishing on empty stomach and return
without food. Majority of the children asserted that, they are also denied medical care when they are sick.

The last specific objective of the study was to examine the aftermath effect of child migration on children’s lives and education. The qualitative information showed that the education of rescued children has delayed. The current educational stage of the children does not commensurate with their chronological ages. For instance, some children who were 14 years were found in class one.

This stands to suggest that, the effect of migration on the wellbeing of the child as defined by Mazzucato (2008) as psychological, educational and health has been negative.
CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION
There have been concerns about child migration to island communities along the Volta Lake of Ghana. Research so far on the subject is not conclusive on the impacts of child migration on the education, health and lives of child migrants. Some studies indicate that child migration affects the future of the child migrants themselves. There is yet another group of researchers who have not taken sides with regards to the negative and positive effects of the phenomenon. Against this background, the study examined the processes through which children migrate, how these child migrants are treated at the destination area and its effects on their education.

5.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5.2.1 Processes of child migration
On the issue of how the children migrate from the “sending” communities to the “receiving” communities, four main ways were identified. The first means discovered involved foster parents (mostly men), who come to the homes of the children, negotiate with their mothers and pay a little sum of money to the mothers with the promise of going to cater for the needs of the children especially at school, and helping to alleviate the financial burden of the parents, most of whom are single parents. These single parents (mostly mothers) then send their children to their relatives or unknown men at the islands with the hope that children would be educated by their new “care-givers” on their behalf.
For some, it was through their uncles and brothers, while others could not tell how they got there, suggesting that perhaps they were very young when they were sent to the islands.

The involvement of parents in this kind of child migration reveals the magnitude of the problem at hand which poses a threat to the survival and developmental growth of the children. With regards to the “sending” communities, the study indicates that these communities are located in the Volta and Greater Accra regions. Some of these communities are found in the North Tongu, South Tongu and Central Tongu districts in the Volta Region, and Ada East and, Ningo Prampram districts in the Greater Accra Region. Most of the “receiving” island communities are located along the banks of the Lake Volta such as Ogetse, Okpalamakofe, Bakpa, Jericho and Cement.

5.2.2 Conditions of Child Migrants at Destination

The dominant activities that the migrant children are engaged in include fishing and cattle herding; with a few of them are engaged into farming. As two-thirds (74\%) of the child migrants are into fishing, 12 (24\%) are engaged in cattle herding and 2 (2\%) are involved in farming. Moreover, some children are engaged in all of the three.

5.2.3 Conditions Child Migrant live in on the Islands

Majority of the responses indicated that, they were abused. With the exception of three (6 \%) of those who said that it was good, the rest 46 (92 \%) said they were beaten with canoe paddle, most of the time starved, forced to sleep in the bush or canoe and denied medical attention are sick.
5.2.4 Conditions Child Migrants go through with Regards to Education

The issue of the child migrants’ education on the islands has not received good attention. The good thing is that all rescued child migrants both in the shelter and reintegrated with families are schooling, however their performance, both in the shelter and at home with families indicates serious challenges they face in their learning. The teachers at both the “sending” and “destination” areas confirmed that those in the shelter tend to be more academically sound than those who were reintegrated into their families. This may be probably due to the fact that, their families may still be facing the same economic challenges that led them pushing them into migrating.

5.3 CONCLUSION

The study on child migration found out that, all the forms of work performed by these child migrants interfere with their education and development.

The kind of work that, the child migrants are engaged in prevents them from pursuing their education, makes them to be treated like slaves, deprives them of good nutrition, adequate rest and exposes them to being beaten by foster parents. These adverse kinds of conditions child migrants are exposed to, should be discouraged.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Though there are series of sensitization programmes conducted by the various institutions, and organizations including NGOs in addressing this menace of child migration, the study recommends the inclusion of family planning education to parents and the introduction of free family planning services funded by the state.
Training of parents on income generating activities by state institution such as Rural Enterprise project and NGO would go a long way to reducing the poverty level and consequently reducing the tendency of families engaging in issues of child migration as a way of alleviating poverty at both the destination and sending areas. This would also make the reintegration very effective.

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection should periodically conduct research into child migration in order to gather some reliable quantitative data on the number of children involved in order to be updated with the changing strategies of child migration culture.

The law enforcement agencies and institutions that are responsible for implementing the various provisions of the Children’s Act, (Act 560,1998) which outlines the various rights of the child, responsibilities of parents towards their children, provisions concerning the employment of a child and other important related matters concerning children, including the Human trafficking Act, (Act 694, 2005) and the Labour Act, (Act 651) respectively should be adequately resourced and empowered to carry out their mandate effectively in order to address this serious issue.

Since the present study was based on a small sample and it was difficult to generalize on the findings, larger and more representative samples could be drawn from different parts of Ghana for further studies. It is therefore recommended that further research should be carried out on the reintegration process of rescued child migrants in the source area. So as to come out with effective processes of reintegration, in order not to allow rescued child migrants to return to destination at the expense of their education and good future.
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Questionnaire: for Child migration to Island communities, along the Volta Lake of Ghana.

I am a student of the Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana-Legon. I am undertaking a research project as part my course requirements in Migration Studies. The study aims to investigate child migration into Island communities along the Volta Lake. I humbly request that, you spare me some few minutes and answer the questions below. Your participation is very important for the success of this project. If at any point in this exercise, you need clarifications, please let me know, you also have the right not to participate in this exercise and you can refuse to answer questions if you feel uncomfortable to do so, you can also end the interview at any point when you wish to do so. The information gathered will be treated as confidential and none of the information you give will be passed on to a third party without your prior consent. You are further assured that the information you provide will be used only for the purpose of this research and your name or identity shall not be indicated anywhere in the study. Do I have your consent to start the interview? YES OR NO?

A. Personal Information of Child Migrant

1. How old are you? ......................

2. Sex? 1. Male   2. Female

3. Where do you come from?

4. On which Island were you living? ......................................................................................

5. How did you come to the Island? ....................................................................................
   ....................................................................................................................................................

6. What is your level of education now?
   1. No education.
2. Primary education

3. Junior High School form 1

4. Junior High School form 2

5. Junior High School Form 3

7. Your mother’s Home district?

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

8. Your mother’s home region?

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

9. Your father’s Home district?

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

10. Your mother’s home region?

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

11. What work does your father do or used to do?

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

12. What work does your mother do or used to do?

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

13. Were you living with some body on the Island?

(I) Yes,

(II) No.

If no, skip to section B

14. What is the relationship between you and the person you were staying with?

(I) Father/Mother

(II) Family member from mothers’ family

(III) Family member from father’s family
(IV) A senior brother/sister

(V) Non-family member. Please specify.......................................................  
(For example: Friend of mother, friend of Father, pastor, etc).

15. Name of Previous School if any:

16. Which of your parent(s) were you living with?

17. Were you living on your own on the island or with someone else?

18. What is the relationship between you and that person you were living with on the Island?
   If any

19. How do you feel living with a person who is not your biological parents or on your own?

20. What are the activities you are asked to undertake as a child?

21. Were you made to work all the time?

22. What type of work do you do on the Island?

23. How has this work affected you in any way?

24. Who provides your basic needs?

B. Information on Education

25. Were you schooling before you were brought to the Island?..............................

26. Were you having access to education on the Island?.................................
27. How do you see your performance now?

28. How do you compare your performance now and before?

29. Do you have problems concentrating in class?
   (I) No
   (II) Yes, Sometimes
   (III) Yes, frequently

30. Did you have problems concentrating previously?
   (I) No
   (II) Yes, Sometimes
   (III) Yes, frequently

31. Additional Information
   Is there any other information you would like to add that was not addressed in this questionnaire? (I) No (II) Yes,
   Please write it here
   …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...
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APPENDIX B

Questions for Interviewing Teachers at the shelter in Krachi as well as Mafi-Devime basic school

1. How long have you been teaching?
2. What class/subject do you teach?
4. How many rescued children are in the class?
5. What is their performance?
6. Are there any other differences between child-migrant and non-migrant children in terms of their school performance?
8. What could be the possible causes of these differences?
9. Do you think the past experience of rescued children has any effect on their performance?
10. What are the interest and attitude of child-migrants towards studies?
11. Is there any extra information you would like to share that was not addressed during this interview?

Questions for Interviewing Foster Parents

A: Social Demographic Characteristics of Caregivers

Age
Sex
Marital Status
Level of education
Occupation

**B: Issues relating to child -migrants.**

Who entrusted this child into your care? Probe for reasons why he/she was chosen, why he/she accepted to care for the child.

At what age did you take custody of the child in question?

What were the arrangements between the child biological parents and you before you took custody of him/her?

4. How has the presence of the child changed the fortunes of your occupation(s)? Probe for reason.

5. How have you contributed to the child’s development?

Is there any other issue that we did not talk about that you wish to talk about or any additional information that you want to add?

**Questions for Interviewing Biological Parents**

What is your occupation?

Why has it been so necessary for you to allow your child to be taken away?

What are the arrangements you do when allowing your children to migrate?

Are their prospective foster parent’s familiar and well known people or family members?

Do the foster parents pay you some token? If yes what form does it take?

At the destination how often do you hear from your child?

Do you get complains for being maltreated? If yes how do you react?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of allowing your child to be a migrant?

Is there any other issue that we did not talk about that you wish to talk about or any additional information that you want to add?

**Ministry of Women, Gender and Social Protection and NGOs**

Is child migration a problem in the Ghana?

If yes, how huge is the problem?

How many children are involved and how old are they?

Which part of the country is child migration prevalent?

Do you have a record of the places where this practice is going on?
What in your opinion are the causes of this problem?

Do you have any policy concerning child migration?

If yes, what are the interventions contained in the policy to combat this problem?

How are the interventions and provisions in the policy enforced?

Has your outfit been able to rescue the children involved in this practice?

If yes, how were they rescued and what is your outfit doing for them? If no, why?

What plans do you have for parents who are involved in this practice?

1. What do you do for the fishers whom you rescued the children from?