

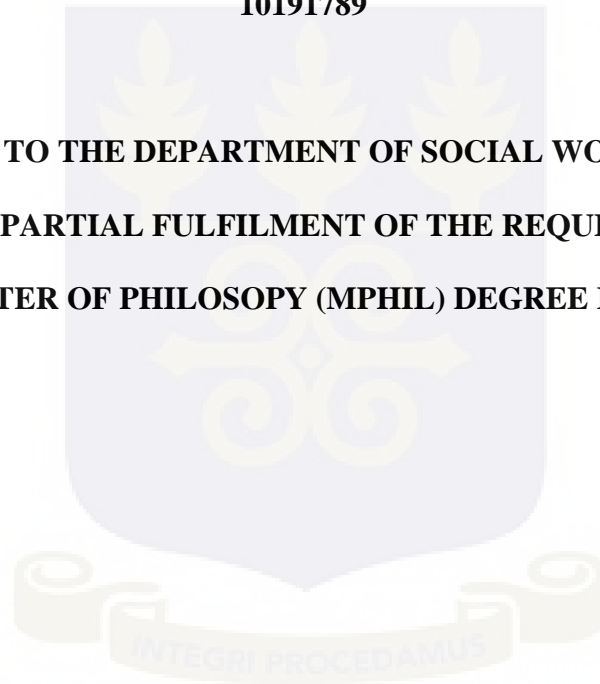
**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OUTCOMES OF AN ILO/IPEC PROJECT TO COMBAT
THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC) IN ACCRA.**

BY

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GHANA, LEGON, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPHIL) DEGREE IN SOCIALWORK**



DECEMBER 2016

DECLARATION

I, Mary Magdalene Vikuba Yartey, do hereby declare that except for references to other people's work, which have been duly acknowledged and cited, this work is the sole result of my personal effort under the supervision of Dr. Stephen Ayidiya, Dr. K. Kwabia, Dr. Cynthia Sottie, Dr. Efua Esaaba Agyire-Tettey and Dr. Doris A. Boateng.

I further declare that this work has neither in part nor whole been presented for any other degree elsewhere. I am solely responsible for any errors detected.


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DEDICATION

TO ALL THE FUTURE LEADERS, WHO BY VIRTUE OF THEIR VULNERALBILITIES AS CHILDREN, AND THE INABILITY OF THEIR CAREGIVERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATELY FOR THEM, HAVE BECOME VICTIMS OF COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.



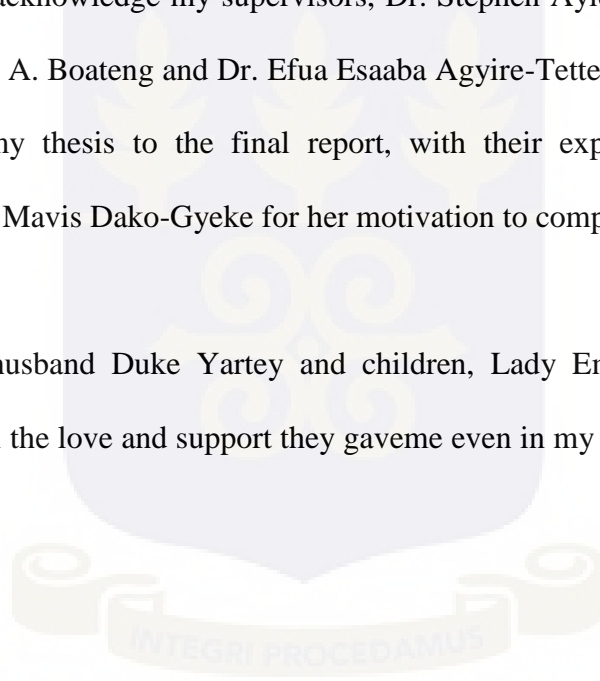
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Finally, thanks to my husband Duke Yartey and children, Lady Emmanuella, Don-Julian, Andrew and Jacob for all the love and support they gaveme even in my most trying times when I almost gave up.



Mary Magdalene Vikuba Yartey

December 2016

ABSTRACT

This study is an outcome evaluation which sought to assess results of an 18 month project implemented using the logic model, to prevent and withdraw children from commercial sexual exploitation. One hundred and fourteen (114) child beneficiaries 36 female caregivers and representatives of implementing and collaborating agencies were engaged in the study. Quantitative data collection tools were used to gather information which was analysed using the SPSS version 16.0.

Major findings from the study were that, there was increase understanding of child labour and commercial sexual exploitation of children in the project communities as a result of awareness raising and sensitization programs organized under the project. Again, direct support by way of educational materials and training tools and equipment received by project participants enrolled in school and vocational training, as part of the project interventions, had helped reduce vulnerabilities of children to labour and sexual exploitation as loitering has reduced. Also, financial support received by female caregivers, even though inadequate, helped them boost their businesses and increase profit, making them more capable of providing for their children.

Participants in the study came up with some recommendations including continuous support for beneficiaries, increased support for caregivers, expansion of project to meet the needs to other children, nationwide sensitization on child labour and CSEC, increased capacity of law enforcement agencies and other institutions with child protection mandate to be able to address child abuse cases more professionally, better rehabilitation and support systems for survivors of abuse.

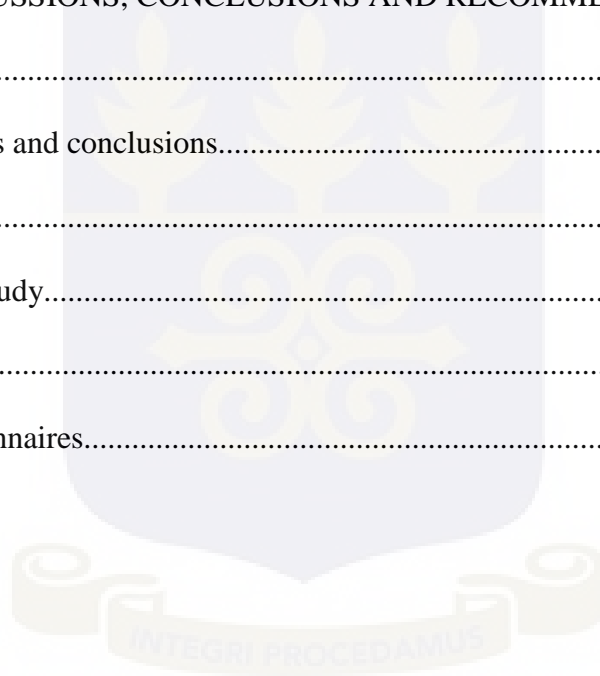
TABLE OF CONTENT

DECLARATION.....	I
DEDICATION.....	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	III
ABSTRACT.....	IV
LIST OF TABLES.....	IX
LIST OF FIGURES	IX
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	X
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	5
1.3 Objectives of the study.....	6
1.4 Research questions.....	7
1.5 Importance of the study.....	7
1.6 Organization of the study.....	9
CHAPTER TWO.....	11
2.0 .THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1...Introduction.....	11
2.2...Theoretical Framework.....	11
2.3...Literature review.....	16
2.3.1 Child labour.....	16

2.3.2 The nature of forms of CSEC.....	18
2.3.3 Predisposing factors.....	19
2.3.4 Victims.....	21
2.3.5 Consequences of CSEC.....	22
2.3.6 Legal frameworks and provisions on Rights of Children.....	24
2.4 Some interventions to eliminate CSEC in Africa.....	27
2.4.1 The Ugandan Experience.....	28
2.4.2 The Tanzanian Experience.....	28
2.4.3 The Ghanaian Experience.....	28
CHAPTER THREE.....	31
3.0 METHODOLOGY.....	31
3.1 Introduction.....	31
3.2 General research strategy.....	31
3.3 Study area.....	32
3.3.1 Study population.....	35
3.4 Pre field work.....	38
3.5 Sampling procedure.....	38
3.5.1 Sampling frame.....	39
3.5.2 Sample size.....	39
3.6 Data collection techniques and tools.....	40
3.6.1 The questionnaire.....	42
3.6.2 Problems encountered during data collection.....	43
3.7 Data handling measures.....	44

3.8 Ethical Considerations.....	44
CHAPTER FOUR.....	46
4.0 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS.....	46
4.1 Introduction.....	46
4.1.1 Outcomes of the project.....	46
4.2 Personal Characteristics of respondents.....	48
4.2.1 Age of child respondents.....	48
4.2.2 Age of adult respondents (Caregivers).....	50
4.2.3 Educational background of respondents.....	51
4.2.4 Ethnicity of children.....	52
4.2.5 Ethnicity of female caregivers.....	53
4.2.6 Religious affiliation.....	53
4.2.7 Place of residence of respondents.....	53
4.2.8 Marital status of female caregivers.....	54
4.2.9 Parents'/caregivers' occupation.....	54
4.2.10 Caregivers of beneficiary children.....	56
4.2.11 Persons who provide the basic needs of the children.....	56
4.3 Knowledge of child labour.....	58
4.3.1 Knowledge of child labour among the female caregivers.....	58
4.3.2 Knowledge of child labour among the children.....	59
4.4 Status of beneficiary children after project.....	60
4.5 Effects of project interventions on beneficiaries.....	61

4.5.1 Effects of project interventions on child beneficiaries.....	61
4.5.2 Effects of project interventions on female caregivers.....	62
4.6 Involvement of beneficiaries in child labour after project interventions.....	63
4.7 The role of implementing and collaborating agencies.....	64
4.8 Theoretical framework and findings.....	66
 CHAPTER FIVE.....	 70
5.0 SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	70
5.1 Introduction.....	70
5.2 Summary of findings and conclusions.....	70
5.3 Recommendations.....	70
5.4 Implications of the study.....	76
REFERENCES.....	78
APPENDIX 1 : Questionnaires.....	85

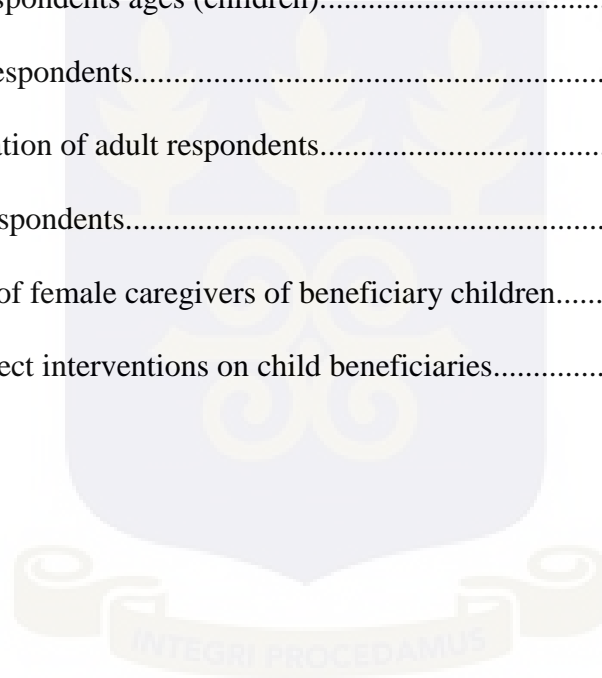


LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 : Table of communities, study population and sample size.....	40
Table 2 : Caregivers of beneficiary children.....	56
Table 3 : Persons who provide basic needs of the beneficiary children.....	57

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: THE LOGIC MODEL - Adapted from E Taylor-Powell (1991).....	13
Figure 2: Pie chart of respondents ages (children).....	49
Figure 3: Age of adult respondents.....	50
Figure 4: Level of education of adult respondents.....	51
Figure 5: Ethnicity of respondents.....	52
Figure 6: Marital status of female caregivers of beneficiary children.....	54
Figure 7: Effects of project interventions on child beneficiaries.....	61



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMA:	Accra Metropolitan Assembly
CCLC:	Community child labour committee
CL:	Child labour
CLU:	Child labour unit
CSEC:	Commercial sexual exploitation of children
DCLC:	District child labour committee
DSD:	Department for Social Development
ECPAT:	End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism
GES:	Ghana Education Service
GSS:	Ghana Statistical Survey
HIV/AIDS:	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ILO:	International Labour Organization
IPEC:	International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and/or intersexual
NGO:	Non Governmental Organization
PTSD:	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
SNV:	Netherlands Development Organization
SPSS:	Statistical Package for Social Science
STD:	Sexually Transmitted Disease
STI:	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TV:	Television
UN:	United Nations

- UNCRC:** United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UNICEF:** United Nation's Children Education Fund
- UNUDHR:** United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights
- WAAF:** West Africa AIDS Foundation
- WFCL:** Worst Forms of Child Labour



CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Background

Children are an important part of every society as they eventually grow to become the leaders in the society and ensure continuity of human existence. However, due to their vulnerability, they have to rely on the adult members of society to ensure their wellbeing. These include food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education, safety and security and emotional needs. Children need to be healthy, safe and happy to enable them to grow and develop their full potential to become responsible citizens and adults in future and this can only be possible if their basic needs are met.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the International Labour Organization Convention 182 (ILO C182), the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the Children's Act, (ACT 560 of 1998) among others, define a child as any person below the age of 18 years. These documents also spell out provisions to ensure that the rights of the child are not violated and their basic needs are met. This notwithstanding, children continue to face many challenges including vulnerability to child labour and its worst forms.

The term "child labour" is defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, their dignity, that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and may interfere with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; by obliging them to leave school prematurely; or by requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work (ILO, 2003).

In its most extreme forms, child labour involves children being enslaved, separated from their families, exposed to serious hazards and illnesses and/or left to fend for themselves on the streets of large cities – often at an early age (ILO, 2004). The International Labour Organization's Convention 182 (ILO C182) has also identified and described the worst forms of child labour to include any work that endangers a child's health, safety and morals, either because of its nature or the circumstance under which it is being performed. These include:

- Debt bondage or serfdom
- Slavery, forced or compulsory labour
- Illicit activities including specifically, the production and trafficking of drugs
- Commercial sexual exploitation, defined as prostitution and pornography.

Work conditions that qualify jobs as the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) are again defined in Recommendation 190 (a document that accompanies and supplements ILO Convention 182) to include:

- Work that exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse
- Work in unhealthy environments (substance, noise, extreme temperatures, etc.)
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment or tools or heavy loads
- Work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined places
- Work under particularly difficult circumstances (e.g. long hours or at night).

Despite these descriptions of the worst forms of child labour by the ILO, the Convention leaves it to the ratifying states to define the WFCL within their own context using the Convention as the guiding framework.

Over the years, many countries, including Ghana, have battled with child labour which is a real social problem, and is negatively affecting the lives of the children involved and the society at large. Even though programmes are being implemented to address the problem, there appears to be limited information on the impact of these interventions on the beneficiaries (ILO, 2004).

The National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana (2009-2015) identifies nine activities which constitute the worst forms of child labour in Ghana. They are stone quarrying, farming, domestic servitude, small scale illegal mining (galamsey), fishing, head portering (kayaye), hawking, begging and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The latter (CSEC) is the focus of this research.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is one of the worst forms of child labour because it results in the violation of the fundamental rights of girls and boys. It involves the sexual abuse of children by adults and the remuneration (in funds or in kind) both for the child as well as for a third party. The child is treated as a sexual and commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery (Stockholm Declaration 1996). United Nations statistics show that about 1.8 million children worldwide are involved in commercial sexual exploitation (UN, 2001). Hughes, 1999 also defines CSEC as involving practices by which a person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a child's sexuality, by abrogating that child's right to dignity, equality, autonomy, physical and mental wellbeing.

The problem of CSEC is prevalent throughout the world. It consists of criminal practices that demean and threaten the physical and psychological integrity of children. Commercial sexual exploitation of children is manifested primarily through child prostitution and child sex tourism, child pornography, and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, as well as through such channels as child marriage, domestic servitude and bonded labour. With the increasing ease of travel, new information technologies and rising migration and displacement, a concerted global effort is necessary to ensure that all children are protected, regardless of their geographic or economic circumstance (ECPAT, 1996).

In Ghana however, this problem has not received much attention. A study by the West Africa AIDS Foundation (WAAF, 2003), which interviewed 363 children, found that CSEC is a growing phenomenon in Ghana. It revealed that girls often trade sex for gifts or money as a way to help meet financial obligations. The study again found that two per cent (2%) of the children interviewed were engaged in commercial sexual activities (ILO, 2003).

The study by WAAF also revealed that 9.3% of street children in Ghana are engaged in sexual relationships. According to reports of the Ghana Statistical Survey, in the Greater Accra Region alone, 11.4% of these street children are engaged in sexual relationships. This study reveals the extent of vulnerability of the children on the streets to sexual exploitation of all kinds and for all purposes, including commercial sex (Ghana Statistical Survey, 2003).

Children in commercial sexual exploitation are exposed to physical, psychological and sexual abuse, by its nature. The consequences of sexual exploitation for children, both emotional and physical, may include loss of self-esteem, mental and physical illness, infertility, behavioural problems, substance abuse and death (Leach, Machakanga and Mandoga 2000). The ILO Convention (C182) and its recommendation (190) could provide a comprehensive framework against which programmes to combat CSEC may be developed, implemented and assessed.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Sexual exploitation of children is recognized internationally as the most severe violation of their human rights and the worst form of child abuse and exploitation. It can have severe, long-term and even life-threatening effects on a child's physical, psychological, spiritual, emotional and social development (ECPAT International, 2006). In particular, children subject to such abuse and exploitation are vulnerable to experiencing such conditions as depression, low self-esteem, problems with trusting others, anger, poor social skills, substance abuse, HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), various forms of physical harm, and suicide (Delaney, S. and Cotterill, C. 2005).

Furthermore, by robbing children of their ability to reach their full potential, sexual abuse and exploitation of children have negative implications for a society's development as a whole. Due to a lack of data at various levels, it is impossible to provide exact figures on the number of children worldwide who are actual victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. However, estimates from the year 2000 suggest that, worldwide, 1.8 million children were involved in prostitution and pornography, and 1.2 million were victims of trafficking (ILO, 2002)

In 2004, ILO/IPEC, through International Needs Ghana (a non-governmental organization [NGO]) implemented a number of interventions to contribute to the progressive elimination of CSEC in Accra. These were done under a project titled “Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Ghana” which had three broad targets:

- Prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children from CSEC
- Sensitization and awareness raising on child rights, child labour, CSEC and the importance of education and
- Capacity building of communities for self mobilization against CSEC.

The programme ended in December 2005 after 18 months of implementation and there has not been a thorough assessment of the outcomes. This research therefore assesses the outcomes of the project and the effects of the interventions on the lives of the beneficiaries.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study was to assess the outcomes of the ILO/IPEC Project to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Greater Accra Region. It was guided by the following specific objectives:

1. To examine the extent to which the ILO/IPEC project objectives were achieved.
2. To ascertain the level of knowledge of child labour among the project participants.
3. To find out the effects of the interventions on the lives of the beneficiaries
4. To generate relevant information to enhance the planning and implementation of future projects to address CSEC.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. To what extent did the project achieve its set objectives?
2. What was the extent of knowledge of child labour and the commercial sexual exploitation of children among project beneficiaries by the end of the project?
3. How did the project interventions affect the lives of the participants?
4. What useful lessons were learnt during the implementation of the project which can serve as inputs for future planning of similar projects?

1.5 Importance of the Study

Social work is concerned with assisting vulnerable members of society, such as children and this is usually done in collaboration with individuals, groups and organizations that provide social services. Social workers are also accountable for interventions they implement and as such, it is necessary to be able to determine whether the interventions are impacting positively or negatively on clients (Royse D, 1991).

This research is intended to provide information on how the outcomes of the project have affected the beneficiaries. In doing so, the research will seek to find out if the processes used in the implementation of the interventions were relevant and right. This will further determine if there is the need for a modification of such projects in the future and whether its expansion is feasible, if it was successful.

An assessment of the project outcomes is also important to help determine the strength of the outcomes and possible replication of such a project in other areas of Ghana where similar problems exist. Even where replication is not feasible, the knowledge gained can be used to develop alternative measures to combat CSEC in Ghana, as the issue of child rights is increasingly becoming a national one.

Even though a review of the project reports suggests that it was successfully implemented, there is scanty knowledge about its actual impact on the lives of beneficiaries. Future programmes would benefit if there were enough information on how such projects affect the lives of their targets, be it positive or negative. Also, information on projects such as the ILO projects to combat CSEC in Accra could help key stakeholders develop new strategies to address such issues using best practices and lessons learnt.

The results of the study could also provide indicators for determining the sustainability of such a project in future and replicating it on a more comprehensive basis. It is against this background that the study attempts to assess the outcomes of the ILO/IPEC project implemented in Accra between 2004 and 2005 which aimed at reducing the prevalence of CSEC in selected communities within the Greater Accra Region.

1.6 Organization of the Thesis

The research report is presented in five chapters. Chapter one discusses the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives and justification of the study, research questions and the importance of the study.

Chapter Two focuses on the theoretical framework used for the project intervention and review of relevant literature including the causes and consequences of child labour on the victims. Special emphasis was laid on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Several interventions to eliminate CSEC both at the national and international levels have also been reviewed in the chapter.

In chapter Three, the methodology used in the study is discussed. This includes a background of the areas under study and the beneficiaries of the project. The research design, population, techniques and tools used in sampling and data collection are discussed. Ethical considerations and limitations are also stated.

Chapter Four is the findings/results chapter which explains how the findings of the study were analysed into meaningful information for discussions. The data collected were edited, coded and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science software (SPSS v 16.0). Findings of the research were discussed in relation to the objectives of the study. The results were classified under a number of thematic areas such as the achievement of project objectives, beneficiaries' knowledge on child labour issues, benefits derived from the project and successes and challenges of the project.

Chapter Five summarizes the findings of the study, concluding the discussion and making recommendations to key stakeholders. Some of these stakeholders include the International Labour Organization, International Needs Ghana, the Ghana Education Service, the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service, the Judicial Service, the Department for Social Development and the Child Labour Unit. These recommendations can be useful to concerned organizations and serve as guidelines for the assessment of such projects and enhanced planning in the future.



CHAPTER TWO

2.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses two issues: the theoretical framework used in planning and implementing the intervention being assessed and literature review regarding child labour, with special emphasis on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The global, regional and national picture of CSEC as well as its forms, predisposing factors, consequences and some interventions to address it in several countries including Ghana are also discussed.

2.2 Theoretical framework

The implementers of the project to combat CSEC in Ghana, International Needs Ghana, used an intervention model or “the logic model” in the design and implementation of the project. This is a statement about the expected relationships between a project or programme and the movement toward a goal. It is also a strategy for closing the gap between the standard and goal that is set during the planning process and the existing behaviour or condition (Rossi et al 1991, p.70).

A logic model is also a systematic and visual way to present and share your understanding of the relationships among the resources available to implement a program, the planned activities and the desired changes or results to be achieved. (W.K. Kellogg Foundation, 2001, p. 1). Again, it is a "picture" of how one's project will work. Logic models link project outcomes (short, intermediate, and long-term) with project activities, inputs (or resources) and participants, and map out how a program or initiative is planned to go from present conditions to the vision of success. Once completed, it provides a picture of how the program or initiative will bring about

change in order to accomplish an identified goal (Kirkpatrick 2001). It is therefore also a good tool for evaluation projects and programmes, hence, its use in this research.

The project to address the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Accra was an intervention aimed at contributing to reducing an existing problem and thereby bring about a positive change from a negative situation using various strategies with a certain population.

Below is

Figure 1, on the next page is a diagrammatic representation of the logic model depicting the problem of CSEC and the journey to the desired situation. It shows resources put in to address the issue, activities implemented, players in the interventions and the different levels of results from immediate to long term.

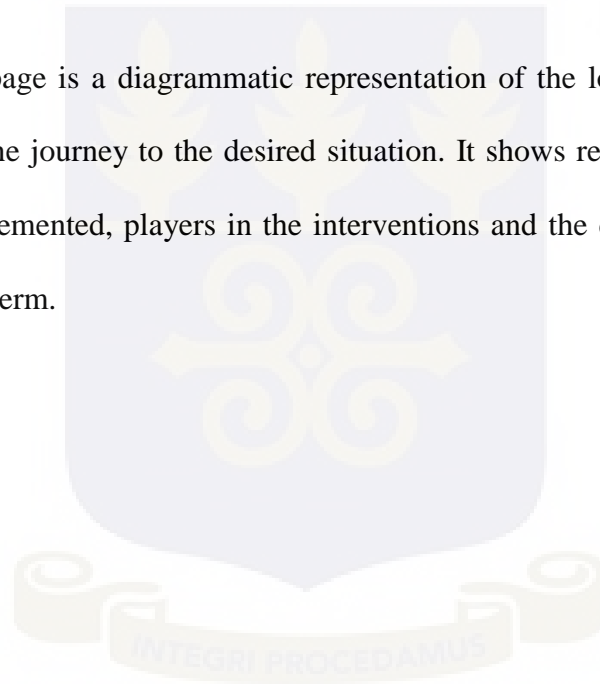


FIG 1: THE LOGIC MODEL – Adapted from E Taylor-Powell (1991).

Project: Addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Accra

Situation: CSEC is a complex social problem that requires a multi sectorial approach to address; through prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation interventions.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes – Impact		
	Activities	Participation	Short	Medium	Long
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds from donor agency (ILO). Project Logistics Resource persons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection and training of district and community child protection committee members Organization of community and school sensitization and awareness raising programmes Identification and Counselling of children vulnerable to CSEC Direct support to selected children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from institutions with child protection mandate. Community members Children in schools and communities Community Child protection committees International Needs Ghana, project staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacities of key stakeholders at the district and community levels enhanced. Increased knowledge of child rights, child labour, CSEC and importance of education among project participants. Children supported to acquire formal education and employable skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children protected and supported adequately by caregivers and society. Community structures adequately addressing the issue of CSEC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive elimination of CSEC Communities safer for children to grow and develop

Assumptions

- Willingness of communities to cooperate to eliminate problem of CSEC.
- Institutions with mandate for child protection willing to work together to promote child rights.

External Factors

- Availability of adequate resources to implement the interventions.

The project to address CSEC in Accra can be explained using this model. The model is adopted to explain the phenomenon under study. The ultimate goal of the project or the ideal situation

which the change agents sought to achieve was communities safe for children to grow and develop, through the progressive elimination of CSEC. Thus, if CSEC were eliminated, children could enjoy better security from their families and society, good health, education and leisure. Ultimately, this can lead to the development of responsible, knowledgeable and skilled citizens to contribute meaningfully to the development of the country in future. According to the logic model, certain resources (inputs) will have to be allocated for the implementation of project interventions (activities), with specific categories of stakeholders (direct and indirect beneficiaries / participants), in order to ensure that desired results (outcomes) are achieved in the short, medium and long terms.

In accordance with major conventions such as the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNUDHR), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC of 1989), the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the Children's Act (Act 560 of 1998) of Ghana, it is expected that children, as part of the society, should be free to enjoy their fundamental human rights. Thus, they should not be deprived of basic necessities such as health, education, food, clothing, shelter and leisure among others. These documents also make provisions for the protection of children against all forms of exploitation.

Thus, with interventions such as the ones initiated by ILO/IPEC to eliminate CSEC, it is expected that through the provision of the necessary logistics, funds and availability of qualified persons and targeted participants such as children, community members, representatives of institutions with the child protection mandate, activities such as capacity building and awareness raising activities will be organized in the communities and schools. Children vulnerable to abuse

and exploitation will be identified and selected to be supported through counselling, enrolment in schools and vocational institutions to acquire education or income generating skills. Through the implementation of these activities, it is expected that knowledge of CSEC will increase, capacities of communities would be built to enable them self-mobilize to fight the problem and poor and affected parents and children would receive social support. It is envisaged that with such support, parents would be in a better position to function as responsible caregivers to their children and the communities will be safer for the children, as the structures will be in place and functioning, to ensure their protection from abuse.

These expected successes are envisaged based on the assumptions that the communities and institutions with the child protection mandate will be willing to participate in the implementation of the interventions and that there will be adequate resources for the project.

This research will also employ the use of funds, logistics and the engagement of direct and indirect participants of the project to address the objectives and the research questions stated in chapter one, which would consequently show the results of the project outcome assessments, as suggested by the title.

2.3 Literature Review

Literature reviewed include project and research reports, conventions and treatise that focus on child rights issues, commercial sexual exploitation of children and its elimination. These include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, The African Charter on the Welfare of the Child, ILO Conventions 138 and 182, the 1992 constitution of Ghana and the Children's Act of Ghana (Act 560 of 1998). This section also discusses some programmes that have been implemented in some countries to eliminate the problem.

2.3.1. Child Labour

Child labour is a growing problem even though there is a global attempt to reduce it and eliminate its worst forms. It involves the use of children in any kind of work that might impact negatively on their well being. The ILO/SIMPOC, (2002), notes there were about 352 million economically active children aged between 5 and 17 years in the year 2002. Out of the number, about 60% were less than 14 years old. In 2000, the ILO estimated that there were 246 million child workers worldwide out of which 171 million were engaged in hazardous work (ILO/IPEC 2000). The report also showed that about 82 million of them were engaged in the unconditional worst forms of child labour which include CSEC. In Ghana, the ILO/IPEC statistical survey released in 2003 estimated that about 1.27 million children were involved in child labour as defined by age and hazardous working conditions. Children as young as seven years worked as domestic labourers, porters, hawkers, miners, quarry workers, transport fare collectors and farm labourers among others. Child labourers are poorly paid and more often than not subjected to all forms of physical abuse. They receive little or no health care and generally do not attend school (Cowen, 2004).

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is considered to be one of the complex, hidden and corrosive forms of child labour. According to Kafuko (2002) and Mwaka (1998), it is an increasing problem. Even though a lot of research has led to a better understanding of child labour in general, it is difficult to get accurate data on CSEC because of its hidden and sensitive nature.

Even though presently there are no statistics to determine the scope of the problem in Ghana, it is apparent that Ghana is on the international map as an easy destination for sexual tourism for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) populations. Looking through the worldwide web, one will see Ghana being touted as a safe attractive destination for international pedophiles and other sexual tourists WAAF (2003). Observations during the WAAF research showed the existence of large numbers of young boys, also engaging in transactional gay sex with foreign tourists. Although research has indicated that most CSEC victims tend to be girls, in recent years the literature has expanded to recognize the victimization of boys as well. While research is limited on male victims of CSEC, new studies suggest that the number of boys and girls involved in child sex trafficking is likely to be similar in numbers (Walker 2013; Greenbaum 2014). A study in New York City found that 40 percent of CSEC cases in the city involved male victims (Bryan 2014). This goes to show that boys are also at risk, and therefore, interventions to eliminate the problem should cover both sexes.

Further investigations into the issue of CSEC in Accra revealed that there are many brothels in the city which house young and older commercial sex workers. One of such brothels for instance, which was a venue for a focus group discussion housed about 200 young girls, with

some as young as nine years. It seemed that every west African country was represented in this particular brothel as there were girls from Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d' Ivoire, Togo, Mali and Guinea (ILO, 2004). During the ILO research, some of the girls at the brothel said there was brisk trade between young Africa girls and boys and foreign tourists. They also confirmed that they actively sought out the foreigners at well known night clubs in Accra.

2.3.2 The Nature and Forms of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) has been defined severally by different authorities. However, common elements of children and their involvement in sexual activity run through all the definitions. The Declaration and Agenda for Action of the first World Congress (Stockholm, 1996) notes that CSEC comprises sexual abuse by adults and remuneration in cash or in kind to the child or third person or persons. The child here is treated as a commercial sexual object (ECPAT International, 2001).

Similarly, Estes, et. al (2001) defined CSEC as the sexual exploitation of children which is entirely or at least primarily for financial or other economic reasons. The economic exchanges may be either monetary or non-monetary (e.g. food, shelter, drugs). However, in every case it involves maximum benefits to the exploiter and an abrogation of the basic rights, dignity, autonomy, physical and mental well being of the children involved.

2.3.3. Predisposing Factors

Factors that expose children to CSEC are multi-dimensional as the patterns differ among countries and regions. Factors like severe poverty, low value attached to education, family dysfunction, a cultural obligation to help support the family or the need to earn money to simply survive, play a crucial role in getting children into commercial sex work. A sectorial study on child labour and commercial sexual exploitation of children in Uganda revealed that peer pressure, the need to be self-reliant, family dysfunction, looking for school fees, the need to supplement family income and homelessness were the main reasons why children found themselves in commercial sex work (ILO, 2004). Poverty is the most frequent explanation cited for the involvement of large numbers of children in sex crimes. However, poverty alone does not account for the large number of children under the age of 16 years being recruited into the sex industry, especially in rich countries such as the U.S. and Canada (Estes & Weiner, 2001; Tremblay, 2001).

Some children recruited into prostitution in the U.S. and Canada appear to come from middle class families and engage in “survival sex” or prostitution as way of supporting themselves on the nation’s streets. Some other powerful explanations of the CSEC include pedophilia (Cole, 1993), relaxed legal enforcement environments (Samath, 1998), debt bondage (Knight, 1998), inter-generational prostitution (Seneviratne, 1994), and the high remittances received by child sending/sex tourist-receiving countries (ECPAT, 1996). Other explanations for the CSEC phenomenon that are also plausible but, to date, have been less fully studied include: high economic demand, which stimulates the supply of children into the sex trade (Hughes, 2000a); community disintegration (D’Asaro & Foley, 1997); social and cultural devaluation of children

(Flowers, 1994; Gutierrez, 1998); and, pre-existent international crime organizations with transnational transportation and financial capabilities (Barr et al. 1996;). Within this array of potentially influential factors, loss of dignity and low self esteem set in, as the children are being used as sex objects, and this is likely to hinder them from developing their full potential in future. As adults, they may go into full time prostitution and drug abuse if there is no timely intervention to rehabilitate them.

In Ghana, research has shown that young girls are increasingly engaging in commercial sex as an occupation for survival (WAAF, 2003). Several factors account for this, notably among which is poverty. Due to poverty, there is the rural urban drift of young people to seek greener pastures in the big cities. Young girls who come to Accra from the northern parts of the country sometimes have to engage in commercial sex be they earn a meager amount from the menial jobs they do during the day. Failure to do this reduces their chances of purchasing items for marriage (which is one of the reasons they come to the big cities). It has also been found that girls who come to Accra from the BrongAhafo and the Ashanti regions to the Greater Accra region do so with the motive of making enough money buy items they need for vocational training. More often than not, these girls end up engaging in menial jobs which do not fetch them enough money. In order to achieve their aim however, a lot of them resort to commercial sex work through which they earn some money to supplement their income (WAAF, 2003.)

A disproportionate number of Kayayes (female head porters) are adolescent girls from northern Ghana, whose population traditionally migrates to urban areas for work. Girls arriving in urban areas such as Accra tend to come from poor families engaged in farming, petty trading or other

semi- or unskilled work. These girls are highly vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation given their lack of marketable skills. Migrant girls also include impoverished brides, who search for work in large cities to raise money to buy essential household goods that they are expected to provide upon marriage (ILO, 2004).

2.3.4 Victims

Children from poor backgrounds and those who have previously experienced physical or sexual abuse stand the greatest risk of getting into CSEC. A family environment of little protection where caregivers are absent makes children susceptible to streetism, exposing them to abuse and CSEC. Globalization, gender bias, criminality, lack of law enforcement, tourism, tradition and culture, increasing materialism and consumerism and commercialization are other factors which have been found to promote CSEC(Childwise, 2003; Joseph, 2015).

In some countries, the child has been seen as an earning potential for the family. This has stemmed from a dramatic increase in the number of young girls in the sex industry (ECPAT, 2003). Other families are therefore compelled by this trend to lure or force their young children into sex work.

Even though there are laws that prohibit the CSEC and sanctions that perpetrators have to face in breaking such laws, the phenomenon is still on the increase because the laws are hardly enforced. Corruption and lax law enforcement are emerging as the main obstacles to eliminating CSEC. The reason is that criminals or perpetrators of the crime are able to bribe people in authority to allow them to carry out the activity (ECPAT, 2003).

The fear of contracting HIV has increased the demand for young virgin girls as customers fear contracting the virus. Despite their fears, however, they fail to forget that unprotected sex with these children can lead to the passing on of venereal diseases from one person to another. On the other hand, the consequences of HIV and AIDS have compelled some girls to enter into commercial sex work. Studies in Thailand have shown that some children whose parents have died from the deadly disease are often forced into the activity to economically support their families (ECPAT, 2003).

2.3.5 Consequences of CSEC

Sexually exploited persons suffer from high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), memory loss, aggression, fear, depression, anxiety, hostility, anger issues, sexually transmitted disease/infection (STD/STI), physical trauma from beatings, and emotional and psychological trauma from engaging in unwanted sex (Greenbaum 2014; Cohen, Edberg, and Gies 2011; Raymond and Hughes 2001; Hughes 1999). Furthermore, minors exploited through prostitution are 70-90 percent more likely than non-exploited youth to have been victims of child abuse and they are also 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution in their lifetime (Goodman and Laurence 2014). CSEC victims often suffer extreme shame about their experiences and they may face the stigma associated with being “sexually promiscuous” (Walker 2013).

Health implications of the exploitation of children in prostitution, while estimated to be considerable have yet ‘to receive appropriate medical and public attention worldwide’ (Willis and Levy, 2002, 1417). A large-scale European study, in which 24 15-to-17-year-old girls

represented 12 percent of the total sample, demonstrated that trafficking, even if not for sexual exploitation, is a health issue (Zimmerman et al 2006). Historically, concern with the health of prostitutes emphasized public health, concerned above all to prevent the spread of STIs into the general population. Prostitutes have been conceptualized as sources of infection, and subjected to health checks within various policies of legal control. HIV/AIDS has added a new dimension, especially for children. Their relative lack of power makes it more difficult to negotiate or insist on condom use. Physical immaturity renders children who have sex with adults particularly at risk of STIs. Boys exploited in prostitution experience specific problems due to anal penetration, which causes chronic anal pain (Ali and Sarkar, 2006) as well as resulting in genital lesions that make them vulnerable to all kinds of STI, especially HIV. There is also evidence that children exploited in prostitution lack information about STIs and genital hygiene (Lalor, 1999; Byrne, 2004). For these reasons, it is reported that the WHO has ‘warned that child prostitutes may pose a greater danger to public health than adult prostitutes’ (Lim, 1998, 178) – a statement that is more likely to contribute to stigmatization than to protection.

Girls exploited in prostitution experience higher levels of pregnancy as well as of STIs than either adult prostitutes or the general population. Physical immaturity is combined with ignorance about health issues and lack of access to ante natal care (Willis and Levy, 2002). Pregnancy outcomes are not good. Moreover many girls seek perilous abortions using traditional methods or illegal abortionists. However they fall victims of sexual exploitation, few children are able to escape their molestation unharmed; virtually all suffer long term physical and emotional injuries (Gelles, 1994, 1998). These injuries remain with the children throughout adolescence and adulthood and, in turn, pose complex service challenges for the justice (Schwartz, & Epstein,

1998) and human service systems (Fishman, Schwartz & Hsieh, 1997; Schwartz & Au Claire, 1995). The relationship is known to be especially strong between child sexual victimization and teen pregnancy (Widom, & Kuhns, 1996).

2.3.6 Legal Frameworks and Provisions on the Rights of Children

Even though several laws, conventions, treatise and constitutional provisions have been established to promote the rights of the child, CSEC is still an enormous problem that many nations are grappling with. Documents such as ILO Convention 182 (C182), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC 1989), the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children, the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and the Children's Act (ACT 560) clearly spell out the rights of children, issues that infringe on these rights and sanctions against persons who infringe on these rights.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was drawn up by the United Nations in 1989 and went into full force in 1990. The rationale behind the drawing up of this convention was to make sure that all state parties of the UN take measures to ensure the proper development of their children. It was realized that children were being deprived of their rights due to their vulnerability. Children were being trafficked for child labour, deprived of education, health, food, clothing, shelter, leisure, water and sanitation facilities and unlike adults could not voice out their concerns. In order for the world not to lose its future generation appropriate measures were to be taken to address these issues of great concern.

The CRC clearly defines in its first article, a child as being any person below the age of 18 years. The convention also stresses against child trafficking in articles 9 and 35 where it states emphatically that no child shall be separated from its parents except in special cases. Article 19 urges state parties to take appropriate measures to protect children from all forms of abuse including commercial sexual exploitation. Supporting this article are Articles 32 and 34. Article 32 spells out provisions for the protection of children from all forms of child labour and state tasks state parties to provide a minimum age for employment, conducive working environment and penalties for the violation of children's rights to ensure the effective enforcement of this article. In article 34 of the same document (the CRC), it is explicitly stated that children should be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation. Again, Article 34 states that all state parties are expected to protect the child from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspect of the child's welfare (CRC, 1989).

It can be clearly seen that all the articles stated above that the abuse of children has been widely recognized as criminal and that member countries of the United Nations have the responsibility of ensuring that perpetrators are sanctioned. The problem however is that even though all these provisions are clearly spelt out in the CRC, children are still being exploited and abused all over the world. Program responses in the field of the exploitation of children in prostitution now include a range of options including rescue/recovery, rehabilitation, reintegration and, to a large extent, prevention.

Ghana as a nation in a bid to contribute to the proper development of children in the country has also made provisions for the protection of the rights of children in its 1992 Constitution and the

Children's Act of 1998 (Act 560). In the 1992 Constitution for instance Article 28 in its first four sections state that children have the right to care from their parents as well as a share in their estate whether they are born out of wedlock or not. This further means that children should not be separated from their parents unless it is really necessary. This is similar to the provision made in Article 35 in the CRC. In the 28th article of the Ghanaian constitution also, it is clearly stated that Ghana has the responsibility of ensuring that, children and young persons receive special protection against exposure to physical and moral hazards and work that constitutes a threat to his health, education and development. A child shall not also be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. And like in the CRC, a child in Ghana is any person below the age of 18 years. Ghana therefore has the mandate to ensure that irrespective of any undesirable situation in the country, children attain total well being through easy access to food, clothing, shelter, basic education, health, water and sanitation facilities and leisure. In the same vein, the state is to ensure that the rights of these vulnerable ones are not violated and this can only be done through effective law enforcement.

The Children's Act of 1998, Act 560 of Ghana makes similar provisions for children as is seen in the CRC and the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. In part one of this Act, provision for the rights of children and their parents' responsibilities towards them are clearly spelt out. While sections five, six, seven and eight state the rights of the children to grow up with their parents and enjoy parental care, education and well being, sections 11 and 12 emphasize the protection of children from exploitative labour and protection from torture and degrading treatment respectively. It means that no child shall be engaged in any form of child labour or torture or any work that might be hazardous to the physical, mental and emotional well being of the child.

In this same document, there is a whole part on child labour with regards to the kinds of work children can do, the minimum acceptable age for engaging in various kinds of employment (child labour, light work and hazardous work), offences and penalties as well as the enforcement of these provisions. In section 87, the prohibition of exploitative child labour is emphasized whilst section 88 prohibits child labour at night. These two provisions undoubtedly frown on CSEC because in the first place, it is hazardous to the health and well being of the child; and secondly, it is an activity that is mostly carried out in the night. Children are not to be seen working between the hours of 8:00p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in section 94, any person who contravenes the provision of the sub-part of the Act commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction. These persons will be fined not more than one thousand Ghana cedis or stay in prison for not less than two years or both. To ensure that these provisions are enforced, sections 94 and 95 require that district labour officers and the social services sub-committees of the District Assembly be put in charge of investigations concerning children in labour.

2.4 Some Interventions to Eliminate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Africa.

As stated in the previous sections, state parties which have ratified the ILO C182 and the CRC are to plan and implement interventions to eliminate CSEC and other forms of the worst forms of child labour without delay. Therefore with support from ILO and IPEC some countries have already started implementing such interventions. Countries in this category include Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Ghana in Africa. Others are countries in Central and South America, Asia and South East Asia.

2.4.1 The Ugandan Experience

Following a sectoral study on Child Labour and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Uganda, the need arose to withdraw children from CSEC and give them enough support to sustain them and prevent them from engaging in the activity again. Support for victims of CSEC came in different forms notable among which are education, counseling, support for orphans and treatment of diseases. These services however were not adequate enough to withdraw them from CSEC (Sectoral Study on Child Labour and Commercial Sex Exploitation, 2004)

2.4.2 The Tanzanian Experience

In Tanzania, guidelines were set up for implementing interventions to eliminate CSEC. The intervention comprised the prevention, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children either at risk to or actually involved in CSEC. Beneficiary children received assistance in the forms of formal and non formal education, vocational skills training and counseling. This trend seemed to run through for all the countries taking measures to eliminate the problem (ECPAT, 2003)

2.4.3 The Ghanaian Experience.

ILO/IPEC funded an 18 month project to eliminate CSEC in some parts of the Accra in 2004. The choice and design of the project followed reports from a Rapid Assessment on Girl Child Labour, especially Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Ghana. This assessment was carried out by the West Africa AIDS Foundation in 2003.

The project had its development objective as the contribution to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. It was however guided by two

specific objectives which were to make the public more aware of the dangers of CSEC and to support 300 vulnerable children through prevention or withdrawal from CSEC.

The expected outputs of the project were as follows:

- The public more aware of the dangers of CSEC
- 50 children withdrawn from CSEC
- 250 children at risk to CSEC prevented from becoming victims
- Some children mainstreamed into formal basic schools
- Other children enrolled into informal vocational training centres
- Victims of CSEC reintegrated into their families.
- Communities sensitized on the dangers of CSEC and instituting measures to address the issue.

The strategy used by the implementing agency to achieve its objectives was a multi-dimensional one. It included using radio, TV, drama, debates, talks and film shows to educate the public on child labour and the dangers of CSEC. Children and adults alike in the project areas actively participated in the project activities. Resource persons from the ILO, DOVVSU, child labour unit, the Department for Social Development and International Needs Ghana were invited to talk on the issue on radio and TV while debates, drama and talks were organized in some selected schools and in the project communities (Project Quarterly report, 2005)

District and community child labour committees were set up to help in the identification of beneficiaries and implementation of the project activities at the community levels. Members of these committees helped in the identification of vulnerable children in their communities and

their linkage to the implementing agency for the necessary assistance. The committee members were also trained in basic counseling skills to enable them offer such assistance to the beneficiaries when the need arose. Their mandate included monitoring the activities and progress of the direct beneficiaries during and after the life of the project.

The project was implemented in collaboration with the Department of Social Development, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, the Metropolitan Directorate of the Ghana Education Service, the Child Labour Unit, some opinion leaders and community members.



CHAPTER THREE

3.0. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on how the research was conducted and discusses the kind of study it is, details of the study area, participants in the study, the sampling techniques used, data collection methods and instruments and kind of data collected, ethical considerations and limitations.

3.2 General Research Strategy

The study was an outcome evaluation of a project to contribute to the progressive elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Accra. An outcome evaluation examines the extent to which a project has achieved the outcomes it set at the outset. It assesses what occurred as a result of a program and determines whether the program's short-term and/or long term objectives were achieved (Van Marris and King 2007).

The research was a quantitative one which entailed data collection and seeking information from different categories of individuals, groups and institutions that participated in the project.

As suggested by Cresswell (2003), the priority of a primarily quantitative or qualitative (or evenly weighted) approach to research largely depends on the scholar's agenda and theoretical applications. In order to meet the study objectives, it was deemed necessary to undertake a quantitative study that allows for quantification of data. Quantification makes it easier to aggregate, compare and summarize the data, and allows for statistical analyses. A properly conducted, representative survey also allows for generalization of results. In the case of this study, the overarching theoretical perspective of the logic model, clearly lends itself to

quantitative research and analysis. This quantitative approach also allows further testing of the model's theoretical sufficiency.

Different methods were used to gather data from secondary and primary sources, from which major conclusions were drawn using the process of triangulation. Among data collection methods used were desk/report reviews, face to face interviews and self-administered surveys.

3.3 The Study Area

Accra, the capital of the country at the southern coast, is situated in the Greater Accra Region. The Greater Accra Region is the least poor region with 5% living below the poverty line in 1999. The region comprises 10 administrative districts including the Accra Metropolitan Area (AMA) where the project was implemented. The AMA district has the largest population (1,800,000 people) comprising 46.1% of the total regional population (GSS 2010). In Accra Metropolitan Area 3.2 per cent of the people are born in another locality in the region, and a far greater percentage was born elsewhere in Ghana. Even though the marital status pattern of the population aged 15 years and older in the different districts is similar, the AMA district (43.3%) has the smallest proportion of persons who are married and the highest proportion of people who have never married (42%).

Accra is the main economic, administrative and financial center of Ghana. Lyons and Snoxwell (2005:1305) indicate some characteristics of Accra in their study on sustainable urban livelihoods and market place social capital: the population of Accra has grown steadily since the turn of the century, and has swelled to four million partly as a result of migration. The city is the

economic focus of the country and attracts rural to urban migrants from the interiors of the country, from the poorer neighboring inland countries and from other countries which are in conflict. Accra resembles other African cities, in suffering from poor urban planning and sanitation, pollution, inadequate services and infrastructure and congestion.

The ILO funded project was implemented in Jamestown, Chorkor and La, all in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly area of the Greater Accra Region. These communities were chosen because it has been established that they are fertile areas for CSEC. Research by WAAF (2003) showed that these areas are well patronized at night by people seeking the services of sex workers.

Although the three project communities are in the heart of the city of Accra and have a lot of social infrastructure, they are also characterized by slums with indigenous and migrant settlements. Apart from the slums being densely populated and congested (due to large family sizes), the lack of well-paying jobs has rendered majority of the people poor.

La, for instance, is situated along one of the country's most famous beaches. This also serves as a pleasure and tourist site for many holiday makers as well as tourists. Teenage girls and boys are often found loitering around the beach, and usually become victims to sexual exploitation.

Chorkor and Jamestown are areas where there is a great concentration of people, most of who are young. Most of the young girls in these communities have either completed their basic education

and are idle or have dropped out of school due to the inability of their parents or caregivers to support them financially.

These communities have a large number of teenage mothers and a significant number of children who are either living with only one parent (mostly the mother) or a relation (usually an aunt or grandmother). They live in large households thus making it difficult for the breadwinner of the family to meet everyone's basic needs.

Community members are mostly fishermen and fishmongers because they are near the sea. These occupations are, however, not sustaining because fishing is a seasonal activity. One can therefore find a lot of people idling during the off-season. There are also a number of petty traders and food vendors in the communities. Because of the low earnings of parents, it is common to find their children helping them in their trades, even when they are supposed to be in school.

The girls are often at a risk of engaging in sexual exploitation because their parents/caregivers are unable to meet their basic needs. As a result, some of them engage in sexual relations with men for money and other material gains. Whiles some of them operate as individuals, others work in groups in specific locations in their communities.

3.3.1. Study Population

The study population included the following:

- Three hundred and four children (boys and girls) between the ages of six and 17 years. These are the children who directly benefited from the project interventions.
- Thirty-six female caregivers of beneficiary children. (these were selected for the pilot financial support component of the project)
- Implementing agencies/organizations. These include:
 - the International Labour organization (ILO-the funding agency),
 - International Needs Ghana (ING – implementing agency) and
- Collaborating agencies namely,
 - The Department for Social Development (DSD),
 - Child Labour Unit (CLU),
 - Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA),
 - The sub-metro office of the Ghana Education Service.

These groups of people were selected for the study because of their involvement in the implementation as recipients. The children and the female caregivers benefited directly from the project interventions and activities. The organizations/agencies listed above were involved in ensuring that project activities were carried out according to plan.

- **Children between the ages of six and 17 years**

In identifying recipients of the project interventions, the ages of the children and their socio-economic background were considered. Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years were selected for the intervention because research revealed that they were most vulnerable

to child labour. Therefore, those identified to benefit from the ILO project interventions were children between the ages of six and seventeen years who were either engaged in child labour, CSEC or were at risk to being recruited for the trade. Profiles of the child recipients of the project showed they had either dropped out of school or had never been to school before due to the inability of their parents to assist them. The older children among them, who had completed their basic education, could not continue due to poverty. Some of them were involved in petty trading to earn some money to supplement the daily income of their parents or caregivers. They sold items ranging from water to food. Most of them carried the items in the community whilst a few of them sold their wares from table tops.

- **Female caregivers of beneficiary children**

This category of people benefited from the financial assistance component of the project because it was realized that majority of the children lived with their female caregivers. They were either involved in petty trading and fish mongering and looked after their wards with proceeds from their daily sales. They were asked to form groups and choose a leader who would ensure that the money lent them would be recouped.

- **International Labour Organization**

The International Labour Organization was the funding agency and provided money for the project activities. All reports (technical and financial) were sent to them and they occasionally visited project communities to monitor the progress of work.

- **International Needs Ghana (ING)**

International Needs Ghana was the main implementing agency and worked in collaboration with other agencies and groups of people to carry out project activities. They implemented the project activities and carried out monitoring as well. ING also prepared quarterly progress reports which they sent to ILO.

- **The Department for Social Development (DSD)**

As counseling was a major component of the interventions under the project, personnel from the Department for Social Development were in charge of organizing counseling services for the beneficiaries of the project and also sensitizing the public on the rights of the child and child protection issues.

- **The Child Labour Unit**

The Child Labour Unit monitored the implementation of the project and was the main coordinating agency for all the stakeholders. The unit was also involved in the sensitization of the public during the life of the project.

- **The Accra Metropolitan Assembly**

To promote ownership and sustainability of the project outcomes, selected members of the AMA in addition to representatives of the other collaborating agencies, were constituted into a District Child Labour Monitoring Committee (DCLMC). Their mandate was to monitor the progress of the project participants and ensure that their various institutions mobilize resources to contribute to the progressive elimination of child labour in the district.

- **The Ghana Education Service**

The Ghana Education service also served on the district child labour monitoring committee and ensured the smooth enrollment of younger project beneficiaries into schools in their communities. They were also mandated to monitor the progress of these children to prevent especially those who had dropped out earlier from relapsing.

3.4. Pre-field work

The researcher visited the various schools and vocational centres to inform the school authorities and trainers of the pending research and its objectives. Dates were then set for the interviews to be conducted. Research assistants were recruited to help in the data collection. These were made up of three people all living in the project communities and fluent in the Ga language as that was the main medium of communication.

3.5. Sampling Procedure

The study population comprised mainly of direct beneficiaries of the project and therefore simple random sampling was used to select the participants for the study. The list of children from the

various communities in schools and vocational centers were provided and the Table of Random Numbers was used to select participants from their lists.

3.5.1. Sample Frame

In all, 340 people benefited directly from the project. Out of the number, 304 were children between the ages of six and seventeen years. The remaining 36 were female caregivers of beneficiary children. These caregivers were those who had received financial support under the project to enhance their income generating activities. Two hundred and nine (209) children out of the 304 children were placed in eight basic schools to continue their education, whilst the remaining 65 were placed in 15 vocational skills training institutions (hairdressing and dressmaking) in the three communities (to acquire vocational skills of their choice). The 36 female caregivers were constituted into six cooperative groups (each group with a name, a leader and a secretary).

3.5.2. Sample size

As indicated above, respondents from different sectors of the project's operations were sampled. As illustrated in Table 3.1 below, questionnaires were administered to 150 participants. They included the 36 female caregivers and 114 children. The 36 women were caregivers of beneficiary children who had been formed into six groups of six to benefit from a financial assistance to enhance their livelihoods. The 114 children, on the other, hand comprised 65 school children and 49 vocational skills trainees from basic schools and informal vocational training centers in the three communities. These were all children who had benefited directly from the project interventions. Some had been enrolled into basic schools in their communities, whilst

others (who were above 15years and did not want to continue their education or had never been to school) were supported under the project to acquire vocational skills of their choice. Kreuger and Neuman (2006) hold the view that where the sample frame is large, few members should be sampled – at least 10% of a sample frame of 1000 and more.

Discussions were also held with some implementing and collaborating agencies to find out the role they played in the implementation of the project.

Table 1: Table of Communities, study population and sample sizes

Communities	Population of school children	Sample size from school children
La	50	15
Jamestown	77	21
Chorkor	82	29
Total	209	65
Communities	Population of vocational skills trainees	Sample size from vocational skills trainees
Jamestown	22	18
Chorkor	26	21
La	17	10
Total	65	49
Communities		Female caregivers
Chorkor	36	36
Total		36

3.6. Data Collection techniques and tools

Due to the nature of information required from the participants and since the research was purely a quantitative one, structured questionnaire with both open and close ended questions were

designed and administered to direct beneficiaries (the children and the parents/caregivers). Questionnaires were distributed to representatives of the implementing and collaborating agencies to fill themselves.

According to Twumasi (1989), the researcher must speak the language of the people to allow for proper communication. This further ensured that the right information was gathered since both parties understood each other. The interviews with the children and the female parents/caregivers were therefore conducted in the Ga language, their indigenous language. A few of them had to be interviewed in Twi as they were migrants from other parts of the country who had come to settle in Accra and were not fluent in the Ga language. Even though the mode of teaching and learning in the schools is done in English, beneficiary children of the project were mostly children who had never been to school or those who had dropped out and therefore were more fluent in the local dialects. Interviews with those acquiring vocational skills were also held in the local dialects for the same reasons that they were more fluent and comfortable interacting in the local language. All the interviews with the children were conducted in their various institutions with permission from their head teachers and trainers. This was to ensure consent and also that they (children) were still in school or in training in order not to miss out on any lessons. It also afforded the researcher the opportunity to interact with the class teachers of some of the children to ascertain their level of participation in both school and extracurricular activities and their overall performance.

Since the working language of the implementing and collaborating agencies is English and representatives were capable of filling the questionnaires, the questionnaires were left with them

to fill and collected at a later date for analysis of the information. All the questionnaires were retrieved.

3.6.1 The Questionnaires

Three different kinds of questionnaires were developed for the separate beneficiaries; the children, the female caregivers and the collaborating agencies. The questionnaires for the children and caregivers had some similarities in content, even though there were a few differences. The questionnaire administered to the children had forty questions divided into three sections. The first section which had 10 questions sought to gather socio-demographic information on the children. The second section which had 21 questions sought to ascertain their level of knowledge and involvement of children in child labour activities. The third and final section which had nine questions aimed at finding out the impact the project interventions had on the children, their future aspirations and recommendations they would make to the implementation agencies (if any).

The questionnaire for the female caregivers comprised of 31 questions divided into three sections. This questionnaire also sought to collate socio-demographic information of the women, their level of awareness and understanding child labour issues (especially CSEC) and the impact of the project interventions on their lives and their families. The first part was made up of nine questions, the second section, 14 questions and the third, eight questions; a total of 31 questions.

Both questionnaires had open and closed ended questions (as well as questions with multiple choice answers to choose from). The inclusion of open ended questions afforded participants the

freedom to express their views on issues which could not be captured in closed ended questions. Twumasi (1989) has suggested that the researcher must include questions which can help detect errors. This is to increase the level of reliability and validity of measurement of answers. This is therefore the reason for the long list of open ended questions included in the questionnaires. Some of the questions were follow up questions to others which had already been asked. They were however stated differently.

3.6.2 Problems encountered during data collection

Some of the participants in the sample list could not be found in the institutions as they were said to have dropped out. Others on the lists were therefore selected to replace them in the research. As a result of this, the research team had to visit some of the institutions more than once to conduct the interviews. The replacement was done by selecting from the list, those whose names came after the originally selected participants, who were not available to be interviewed. Several visits were also taken to the Chorkor community in order to be able to interview all the 36 female caregivers in the study. Because of their petty trading activities, we had to visit some homes more than once since most of them did not have specific trading locations, thereby making their homes the most likely place to locate them to conduct the interviews.

3.7 Data handling measures.

Data collected from the field would only make sense when organized and therefore the need to process and analyze data (Kwabia, 2006). First of all, the data was checked to ensure that the questions had been properly answered, were readable and ready to be entered into the computer. Variables were listed after which mutually inclusive answers from the questions were categorized under the variables. A coding scheme was then prepared and used to code the answers after which the data was entered into the computer and further verified by cross-checking with the coded answers to ensure error free analysis. The data was then processed using the SPSS package to generate percentages, tables, graphs and pie charts to be used to interpret the findings. Details of the analysis and recommendations and conclusions drawn are discussed in the next two chapters.

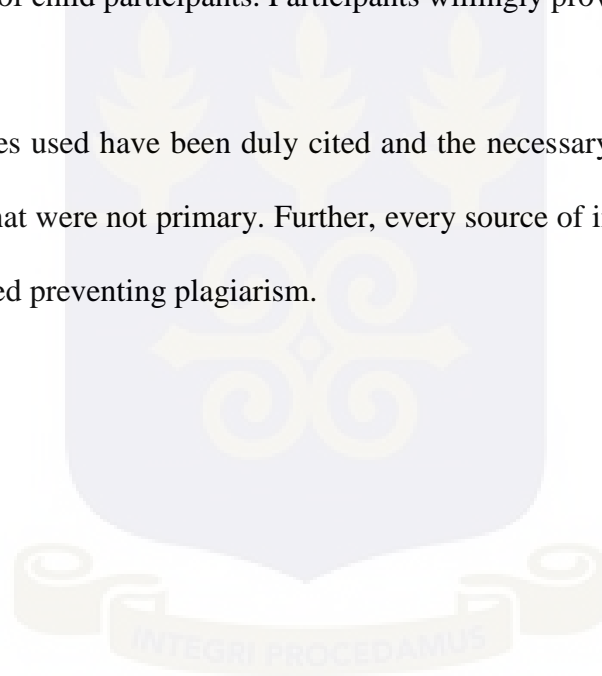
3.8 Ethical considerations

Due to the sensitive nature of the research and the participants involved, the questions were designed such that participants will be comfortable answering them, and the researchers will still get the required information without the children going through trauma. Extreme care was exercised in asking the questions. The research team was made up of people who had experience working with children, and was well oriented on how to administer the data collection instruments in order to collate the relevant information for the study. They were also familiar with the communities in which the research was conducted. The exercise was explained to caregivers and permission was sought from teachers in the schools and the trainers at the vocational centers, prior to engaging the children in the exercise.

Confidentiality: this research ensures that the information collected, the personal identities such as names, pictures of respondents were not added. As such code names were given to participants. Respondents were assured that any information they gave during interviews and discussions was treated with confidentiality and would not be released to any third party.

Informed consent and assent: Under this principle, respondents were informed about the purpose of the research and the need to give correct information. Also consent was sought from the teachers and trainers of child participants. Participants willingly provided information.

Plagiarism: all references used have been duly cited and the necessary recognition given to all sources of information that were not primary. Further, every source of information borrowed has been highly acknowledged preventing plagiarism.



CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of the study in relation to the set objectives and the theoretical framework, after the analysis of the data collected. Findings are presented in percentages, charts and figures in addition to the discussions.

4.1.1 Outcomes of the Project

At the end of the project, 304 children directly benefited from the various interventions. Sixty five of them between 16 – 21 years old were assisted to acquire vocational skills of their choice (mainly hairdressing and dressmaking skills) from informal training centers in their communities. The remaining 239 were enrolled in basic schools in their communities. Those in vocational training centers were given the necessary tools and kits to use in their training. Fees for the entire training period were also paid for them. The school children were provided with one academic year's supply of books and stationery and two uniforms each. This was after they received initial counseling from officials of the Department for Social Development and some opinion leaders. Caregivers of the beneficiaries were also engaged in the process as they had to understand the project, give their consent for their children to be supported so they can help sustain the outcomes of the project outcomes even after it had come to term.

As Poverty was identified as one main factor which leads to children being vulnerable to child labour and CSEC in particular, the project provided financial support for some of the female

caregivers of the beneficiaries to enhance their income generating activities. The rationale behind this assistance was to economically empower them to continue providing adequately for their children even after the project, thereby further reducing their vulnerabilities to CSEC. In all, 36 female caregivers in the Chorkor area were given financial grants ranging between thirty and fifty Ghana cedis each to help them boost their businesses. This was supposed to be paid back in six monthly installments with an interest of two percent. It was expected that the money would be operated in a revolving fund to enable the extension of that component of the project to other caregivers. An account was opened for them to ensure safe keeping of the money.

During the project also, community durbars, debates, children's fora, radio and TV educational programs were organized to educate the public on the dangers of child labour, especially CSEC. A theatre group was contracted to produce a movie entitled "Deadly Angels" depicting dangers of CSEC. This was shown in the communities and schools during the awareness raising sessions. At the end of the project, follow up visits were made to project participants, to ascertain their progress under the various components (Project Final report, 2005)

Reviewed reports from the implementing agency show that the project was successful, as all the activities planned were carried out and the objectives set were achieved. Findings from the primary data collected in this study therefore, were used to independently assess the extent to which the project achieved its objectives.

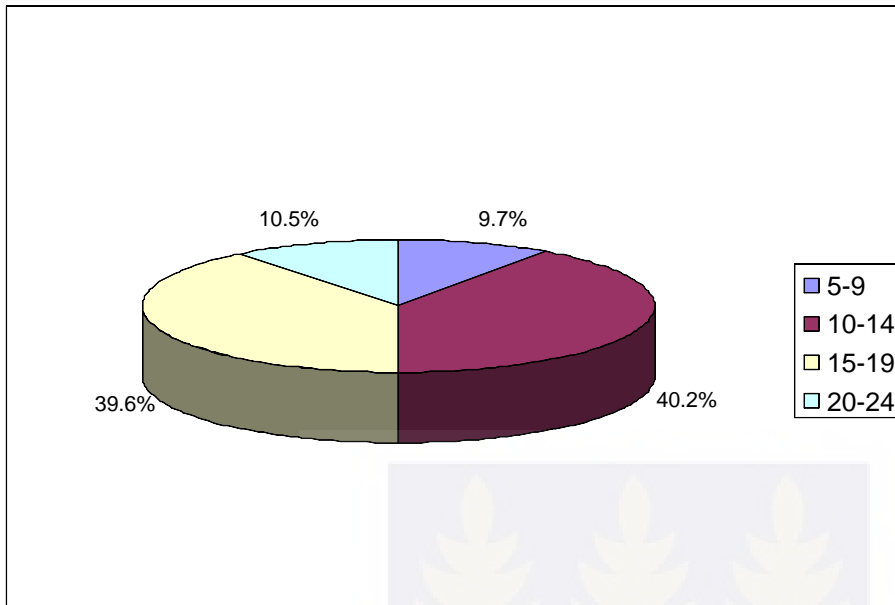
4.2. Personal Characteristics of Respondents

4.2.1 Ages of respondents

In all, 150 direct beneficiaries were interviewed. These included 114 children and the 36 female caregivers / parents (all those who benefited from the pilot phase of the economic empowerment component of the project). The male beneficiaries constituted 33.3% (38) of the total number of children interviewed, whilst the females accounted for the remaining 66.7% (76). Overall, (by project design) there were more female beneficiaries in the project than males because girls are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse. Their ages ranged between eight years and 21 years, with majority of them in the 10 -19 year bracket. See figure 2. As at the time the project was being implemented, the age bracket with which International Needs Ghana was working was six years to 18 years since that is the age range of children engaged in child labour activities. This is backed by two studies which identified the age of vulnerability to CSEC as 10-17 years and 13-17 years (WAAF, 2003, and GSS, 2003).

The project generally worked with children between six and eighteen years, but considered a few young people above 18 years, because of their peculiar situations. Some of these were also interviewed during the study.

Figure 2: Ages of Beneficiary Children



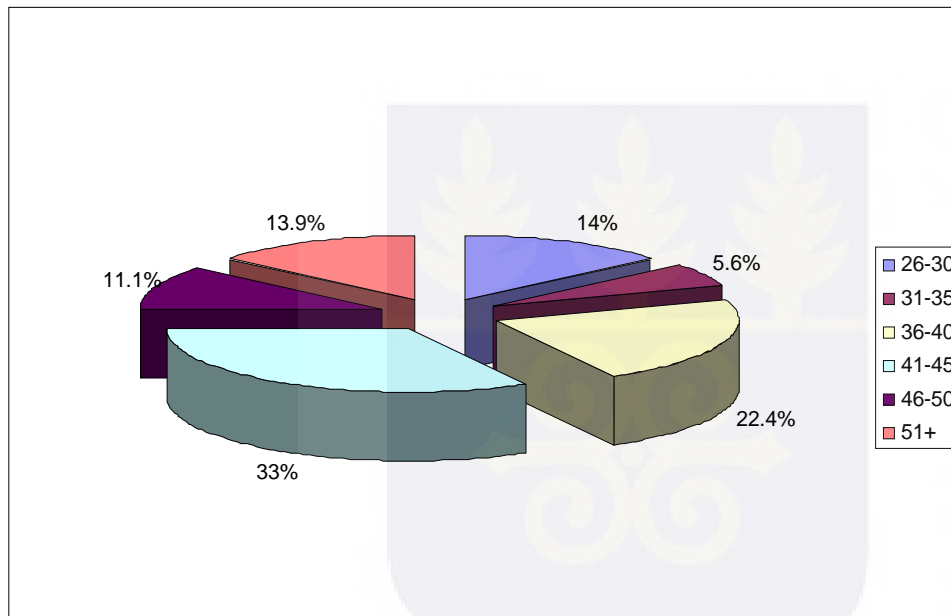
Source: field survey, 2007

Before the inception of the project, none of the children interviewed in this study were in school or vocational training. Some of those who were of school going age had either never been in school or had dropped out due to their families' financial constraints and consequent inability to support them through formal education. Some of the older ones had also completed basic education but could not continue to higher levels due to financial constraints. Their financial situation, coupled with their idleness was a predisposing factor to their involvement in CSEC. This proves findings from an earlier research conducted by WAAF in 2003 which suggests that most of the children who are sexually exploited are drop outs or could not continue their education beyond the basic level. Again, the before and after status of the children interviewed shows that they all received support under the project as they were out of school or vocational training prior to the inception of the project.

4.2.2 Ages of Female Caregivers

The ages of the female caregivers interviewed ranged between 27 years and 57 years. Most of them however (55.4%), were aged between 36 and 45 years.

Fig 3: Age of Female Caregivers

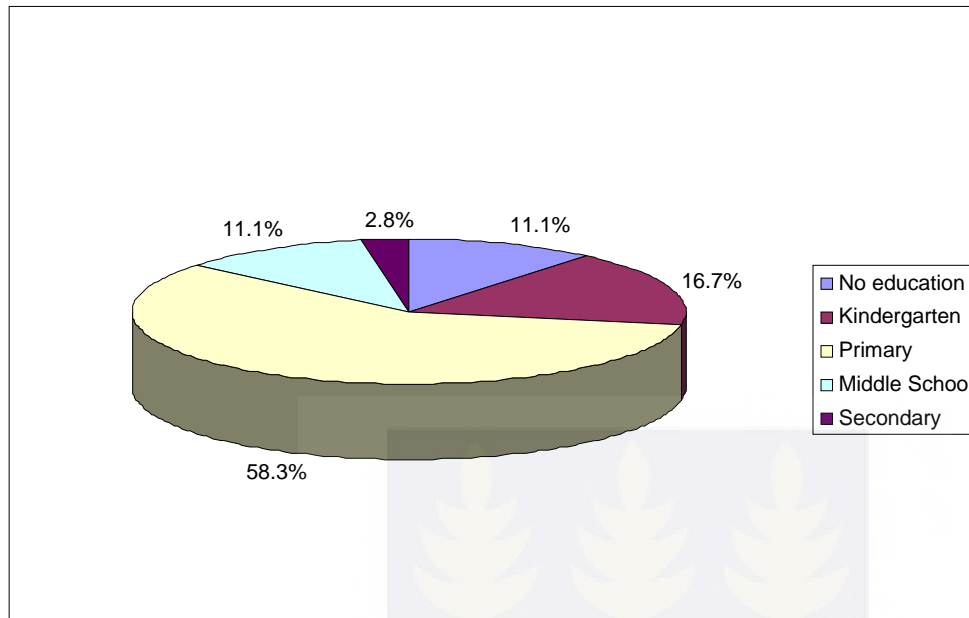


Source: Field survey 2007

From Figure 3 above, majority of the female caregivers (55.4%) were middle aged women who were between 36 and 45 years. The women had an average of five children each. This, they said, made it difficult for them to care adequately for the children, due to the little income they earned from their various occupations.

4.2.3 Educational Background

Figure 4: Level of Education of Female caregivers



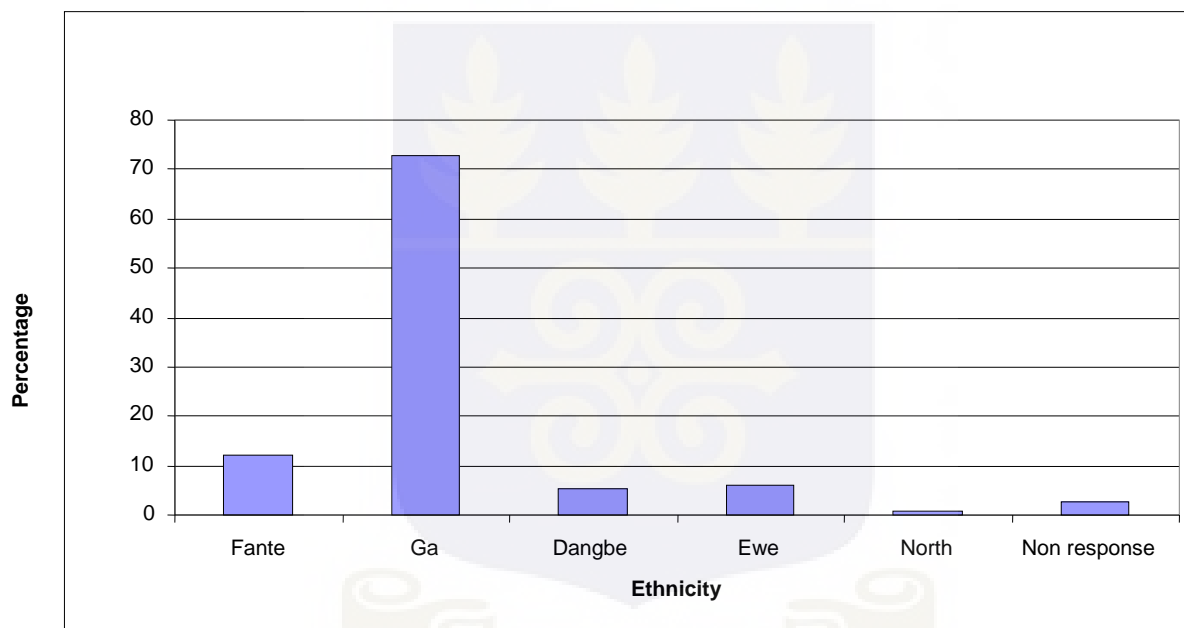
Source: Field survey 2007

Figure 4 above depicts the education level of the female caregivers who received support from the project. Sixteen point seven percent (16.7%) had completed kindergarten, more than half, 58% had primary education, 11% had completed middle school, 2.8%, secondary education and 11% had received no form of formal education. This picture can be related to the kind of jobs they do and their low earnings. It is possible that, the low paying jobs they are engaged in, is because of their poor educational background. This, coupled with their large family sizes makes it difficult for them to cater adequately for their dependents and consequently increases their children's vulnerability to child labour and CSEC.

4.2.4 Ethnicity (children)

Most of the children who benefited from the project interventions belonged to the Ga tribe from the Greater Accra Region (78%). The rest of them making up 22%, were from the Fante, Ewe and Northern tribes. This shows that the people who live in those areas are mostly indigenous Ga, with a few being migrant settlers.

Figure 5: Ethnicity of Respondents (children)



Source: Field survey, 2007

Fante	12.3%
Ga	75.4%
Dangbe	5.3%
Ewe	6.1%
Northerners	0.9%

4.2.5 Ethnicity of Female caregivers

All the 36 (100%) women interviewed said they were from the Greater Accra Region. Majority of them have children with Ga men whilst a few of them have children with men from other tribes (Ewe, Fante and the Northern tribes).

4.2.6. Religious Affiliation

The women said they were all Christians attending different denominations of churches.

4.2.7. Place of Residence

The 36 women interviewed were residents of Chorkor and mothers / caregivers of child beneficiaries from Chorkor. They were all selected from Chorkor because the economic empowerment component of the project was piloted there. It was likely to be replicated in the other project communities depending on its outcome.

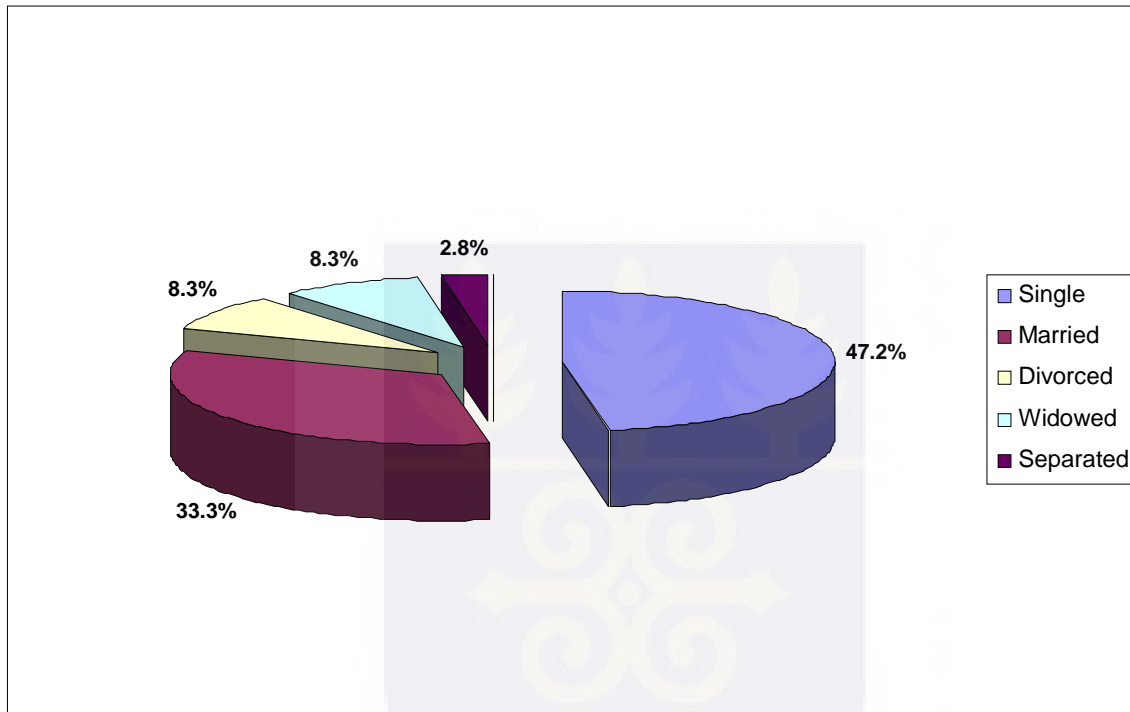
The children on the other hand, lived in the three project communities i.e. Chorkor, Jamestown and La. These areas have been identified in a study by the West Africa AIDS Foundation as places where children at high risk to CSEC can be found. Other areas include slums in Agbogbloshie, Sodom and Gomorrah and Kantamanto which are near the previously mentioned indigenous settlements (WAAF, 2003). Thus, the project was rightly situated as the communities selected for interventions were relevant to the problem.

4.2.8. Marital Status of Respondents (female caregivers)

Out of the 36 women interviewed, 12 (33%) were married. Majority of the rest of them were either single (47%), divorced (8%), widowed (8%) or separated (3%). In effect, 66% of them

were living alone with their children. Some of those who are married are still living in their in their extended family homes, away from their husbands.

Figure 6: Marital Status of Female Caregivers



Source: Field survey, 2007

4.2.9. Female Caregivers' Occupation

The study revealed that, trading is the most common job in the areas for both women and men alike. Ninety six percent of the children interviewed said their mothers were petty traders whilst only 4% said their mothers were unemployed. Their fathers on the other hand were engaged in a wider range of jobs including trading. Most significant among the jobs they did were trading (21.3%), masonry (19.7%), carpentry (13.1%) and driving (11.5%). The rest which are farming,

fishing, cleaning and other casual jobs accounted for 18% whilst the remaining 16.4% of the respondents said their fathers were unemployed.

Similarly, all the 36 female caregivers who were interviewed said they were employed. Majority of them (81.8%) said they traded in items like cooked food, fish (fresh and smoked), vegetables and household items. This was, however, done on a small scale as they did not have enough capital to expand their businesses. Most of them explained that they collected their items on credit from wholesalers and made little profit on the goods they sold. Eighteen percent of them said they smoked fish for sale and this was their main occupation. Business, however, becomes slow for them during the off-fishing season and as such their earnings are inadequate during those times. Respondents stated that they were still poor, even though they were working and this can be attributed to the fact that they earn little and have large family sizes to look after.

These findings point to the fact that parents or caregivers of children in the project areas may be poor even though majority of engage in some income generating venture. Poverty has been identified as a major factor perpetuating CSEC. A study by WAAF in 2003 found out that most of the children at risk to CSEC have impoverished socio-economic backgrounds (WAAF, 2003).

4.2.10. Caregivers of Beneficiary Children

A lot of the children were found to be living with their mothers or female caregivers. From Table 2, whilst 67 (58.8%) of the 114 children interviewed lived with their mothers, only 36 (31.6%) lived with both parents and the remaining 11 (9.6%) lived with other relatives, who most of the time is a grandmother.

Table 2: Caregivers of beneficiary children

	Number	Percentage %
Both parents	36	31.6
Mother alone	67	58.8
Other relative	11	9.6
Total	114	100

Source: Field Survey, 2007

4.2.11 Persons who provide the basic needs of the children

The study revealed that, most of the basic necessities of the children were provided by their mothers. These needs include food, clothing, shelter, books and money for school and healthcare.

Table 3: Persons who provide basic needs of the children / kind of needs

Need (%) →		Food	Clothing	Accommodation	Pocket money	Books	Healthcare
Parent/Relative ↓							
Both parents		24.1	20.5	22.7	23.6	20.2	18.2
Mother alone		<u>65.2</u>	<u>58.9</u>	<u>60.0</u>	<u>55.5</u>	<u>50.0</u>	<u>53.6</u>
Father alone		3.6	8.9	5.5	11.8	17.0	16.4
Brother		1.8	1.8	6.4	3.6	2.1	3.6
Sister		0.9	2.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9
Other		4.5	7.1	4.5	4.5	9.6	7.3
Total %		100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Field Survey, 2007

Table 3 represents a list of categories of people who provide basic needs for the beneficiaries and the kinds of needs they provide for them. Looking at the figures, one can deduce that the female

caregivers bear most of the cost of the children's upkeep. Whilst over 55% of the respondents said their mothers were solely responsible for their upkeep, only 22% (on the average) were cared for by both parents. This confirms the fact that majority of the children (68%) live with their mothers, aunties or grandmothers. Single parenting is one common phenomenon which can be observed in the project areas, as a result of which women are mostly the breadwinners of their families. This thus suggests that family dysfunction is one major factor that contributes to putting children at risk to CSEC as stated in a study conducted by ILO (ILO/MGLSD, 2004).

4.3 Knowledge of Child Labour

4.3.1 Knowledge of Child Labour among female caregivers

The female caregivers said they had heard about child labour and explained it to be situations of children engaged in hard work, especially selling various items on the streets. They further explained that children got involved in child labour activities out of financial hardships in their families. They further explained that child labourers in school could be prone to dropping out since their performance in class may be affected negatively by fatigue and lack of concentration in class.

Most of the responses to the question on the knowledge and understanding of CSEC suggested that, they understood CSEC to be the involvement of children in prostitution. The women admitted that the practice was a common one in their community and even though it was a dangerous activity for children to get involved in, the community at large had not done anything about it. The main factor which they claimed pushed children into the practice was financial difficulties. These responses are buttressed by elements of abuse and sexual exploitation of

children as found in CSEC definitions and some of the predisposing factors as found in reviewed literature.

They claimed their source of information on the issue was through the radio and TV programmes and community educational meetings organized by InternationalNeeds Ghana during which time community members watched a drama on CSEC in addition to talks given by resource persons from various institutions.

Here again, responses given by the women indicate that ING indeed conducted awareness raising and sensitization programmes on CSEC, in the communities and these programmes were highly patronized and understood.

4.3.2 Knowledge of Child Labour among the Children

Whereas 26.9% of the child respondents said they had heard about child labour, the remaining 73.1% initially claimed they had not heard about it. However, when they were given a clue as to what it was, majority of them admitted having some knowledge about it. Fifty seven percent said they had heard about child labour from TV and radio programmes, 17.9% had heard it during a class in school, 17.9% from a friend and 7.1% from someone. In order to be sure if they understood what child labour is, they were asked to briefly describe a child labour situation. In response to this question, 60.7% of the children explained child labour as the involvement of children in hard or dangerous work which could negatively affect their health and development. Others (39.3%) explained it to mean the situation of children selling various items on the streets (which is common in Ghana). They were further asked if they knew about CSEC and if some of

them were involved. The children said even though they knew about CSEC, they (especially the girls) had never been involved in it. They explained it to mean “men sleeping with children and giving them money”.

The knowledge of child labour and especially CSEC among the children interviewed also suggests that, programs organized by ING to create awareness on the issue were highly patronized in the project communities.

4.4 Status of the Child Beneficiaries after the Project

All the 304 children who were identified for support under the project were either placed in basic schools or informal vocational training centres in their communities. Of the 114 children interviewed, 57.1% were enrolled in basic schools whilst 24.1% and 18.8% were learning skills in dressmaking and hairdressing respectively. These figures are a reflection of how many children benefited from the project interventions. Project reports and database of children supported show that, out of the total number of child beneficiaries (304), 65 were placed in vocational training centres and the rest in basic schools (from class 1 to Junior High School, form 1). This is because most of the children at the time of the project were below 15 years and interested in going to school, since a good number of them had dropped out owing to financial hardships in their families.

All the children interviewed confirmed that it was through ING that they had enrolled into their respective institutions. Even though most of them expressed satisfaction at being in those institutions, they requested for more assistance from ING in the form of more learning materials

(for those in schools) and stipends (for those in vocational training). Those in vocational training said because they spent the whole day at the centres, it was almost impossible to undertake any commercial activity, which some of them were doing prior to their enrollment. Some of them further lamented that their caregivers had refused to provide anything for them since they were not helping them like before. It was therefore difficult for them to meet their own needs as a result of which they had to rely on their trainers and a few friends for assistance. Owing to this, 5.4% of the respondents said they were not satisfied with their current situation.

4.5 Effects of the Project Interventions on Beneficiaries

4.5.1 Effects on Child Beneficiaries

Majority of the children stated that the project was a laudable one because it created an opportunity for them to have improved lives. Even though none of them related this to the fact that they may be less vulnerable to CSEC, they gave other reasons for their appreciation of the project interventions.

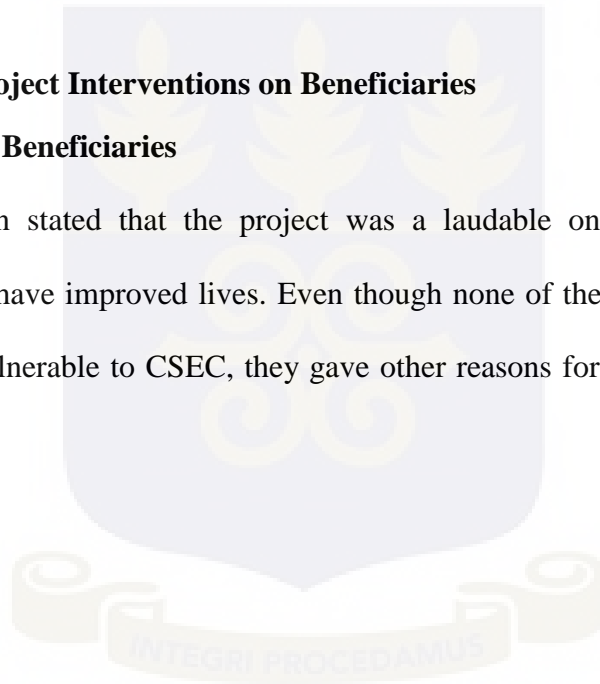
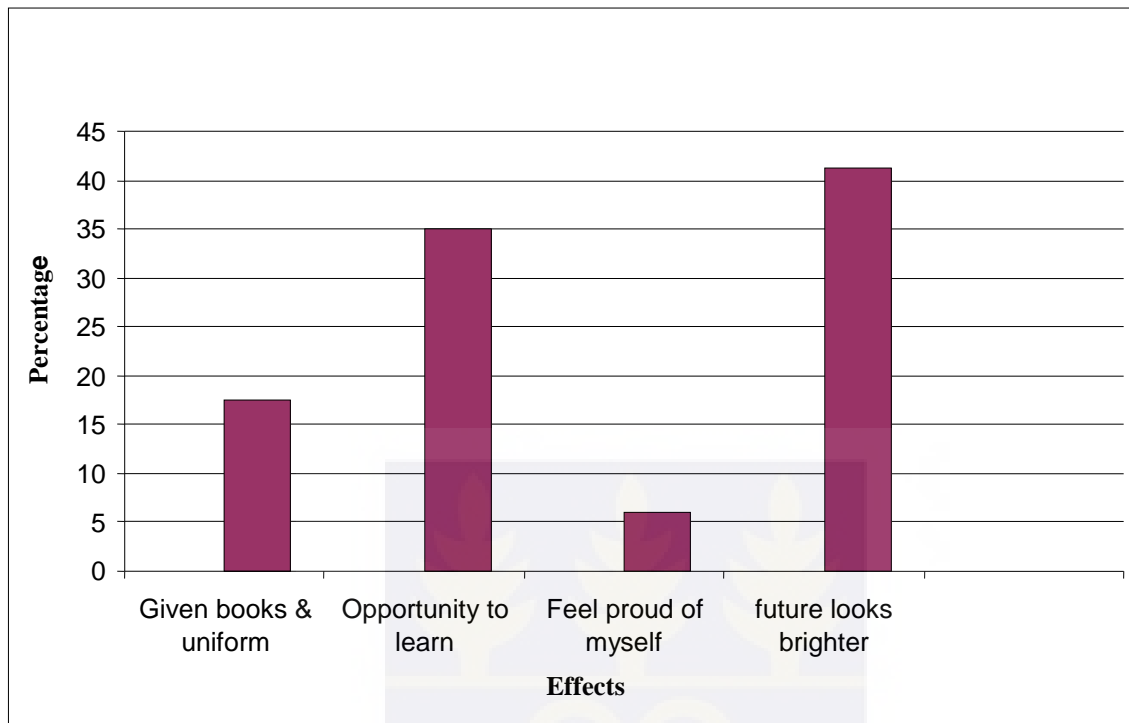


Figure 7: Effects of Project Interventions on the Lives of Child Beneficiaries



Source: Field Survey, 2007

The graph above illustrates reasons given by the child beneficiaries. Forty one percent of the children interviewed during the study said, the future looked brighter for them as they had stopped loitering but were rather in school and in training. They explained that if they took their training seriously, they would in the near future have meaningful jobs to do which would earn them some income. With this, they would be able to look after themselves and avoid having sex for money. Thirty-five percent (35%) said that it was a good opportunity for them to learn in school and in training and like the previous 41.3%, they had a better future with the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The remaining 23.6% of the respondents stated that the books and uniforms and training kits they had been given motivated them to work hard in their respective

institutions. They also felt proud of themselves in that they were no more idlers like they were before the inception of the project.

Interesting responses were received when they were asked about their future aspirations. Dressmaking topped the list of future occupations (32%), whilst hairdressing and healthcare provision accounted for 16.5% and 13.4% of the responses. Nine point three percent (9.3%) said they hoped to become teachers, eight percent lawyers, six percent footballers and three percent masons. A few others said they hoped to become artists, pilots, nurses, policemen, managers and officers.

The children finally made a number of recommendations to ING. They asked for more books and uniforms. Twenty percent also asked that some other children in their communities should be assisted since there were a lot more of such vulnerable children in their communities.

4.5.2 Effects of Project Interventions on Adult Beneficiaries (female caregivers)

All the women who were interviewed said they thought the project was successful because ING had been supportive to them and their children. Thirty two percent of the 36 women said their children were currently benefiting from the vocational skills training component of the project and 67.6% had their children enrolled and being supported in basic schools. The women themselves had received financial assistance from the project ranging between Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢20.00) and Fifty Ghana Cedis (GH¢50.00) each, depending on the number of children they had on the project. They said that even though the money had helped them expand their businesses, it was only by a small margin. Finally, they asked that ING should continue the

project since there were a lot of other children in the community from poor families who would also need some assistance.

4.6 Involvement of Beneficiaries in Child Labour after the Project Interventions.

The research also sought to find out if some of the children had been involved in any commercial activity one year after the project had ended. To this, 46.5% of the children said they were involved in petty trading which they did to assist their mothers. They said they usually sold the items with their mothers / caregivers after school and on weekends. Some of them said they only sell in their mother's / guardian's stores when they had to go somewhere. Enquiries were made into how long they worked in a day. Whereas 40% of them said they worked for just about one hour a day, the remaining 60% said they worked between 2 and 6 hours a day. This suggests that those who work for longer hours do so on weekends. When asked if they received any kind of payment for the work they did, 86% of those who claimed they worked said they were paid mostly in kind, in the form of food, clothing, shelter and healthcare. The children explained that failure to support their mothers meant that they may not be well taken care of since there would be insufficient income for their families. Only 14% of those who worked were paid in cash ranging between 0.50p and GH¢2.00 a day. Those who were paid in cash usually helped their neighbours with their economic activities (petty trading). They said they worked during weekends as they either had to go to school or for training during the week. The female caregivers of the children were also asked if their children were engaged in any kind of commercial work. To this they replied that the children only helped them occasionally with their businesses.

Inferring from the information above and comparing what the children do by way of economic activity with the definition of child labour, one can conclude that, the children who hitherto, child labourers and were supported under the project, were not engaged in child labour after the project interventions. Child labour has been defined by the International Labour organization (ILO) as any work that is detrimental to a child and affects the child's safety, morals, health, education and general development. It is also work that is defined in terms of the number of hours it is done, the age of the child involved and the circumstances under which it is being done. Therefore, older children helping their parents in their economic activities for a short time without being deprived of their education, health, safety cannot be said to be child labourers.

4.3. The role of implementing and collaborating agencies

The project to prevent and withdraw children from commercial sexual exploitation was an initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO). International Needs Ghana (ING) was the main implementing agency that worked in collaboration with the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), the Department for Social Development (DSD), the Ghana Education Service (GES), the Child Labour Unit (CLU). The collaboration was possible and a success because of the various expertise and technical support provided by each of the partners. Whereas ING had general oversight over the whole project and organized the activities, the others were invited to be part of the programs as and when their services were needed. The AMA for instance, comprised of representatives of organizations providing social services and those with a mandate for child protection at the district level, some of who also doubled as members of the District Child Labour Committee for the project. They were supposed to monitor the progress of project participants at the district level and mobilize resources from their respective organizations to

ensure sustainability of the outcomes of the project, even after it had come to term. The GES coordinated the enrollment and mainstreaming of beneficiary children into school whiles ING provided the educational materials for the children on the project. The CLU had the responsibility of coordinating activities of all organizations implementing projects related to child labour and so organized programmes on child labour, to sensitize the general public on the issue. The DSD provided psychosocial and career guidance and counseling to the beneficiaries during the interventions and this helped especially the older children make informed choices of skills they wanted to acquire. Representatives of these organizations were also key resource persons at all the awareness raising events organized under the project such as the community durbars, children's fora, TV and radio programs.

Generally, all these agencies lauded the project as they all acknowledged that child labour and CSEC were issues that needed a multisectoral approach to address them. Strategies used according to them were participatory as they included acceptable modes of operation at the district and community levels. Groups were formed in the communities and oriented to identify the right targets for support. These groups, also known as the community child labour committees were made up of a cross section of people from the communities including opinion leaders, assembly members, youth and women. They were also responsible for monitoring the progress of especially the children who were enrolled into vocational training and report to ING.

Project reports from International Needs, Ghana, point to some challenges that were faced in the implementation of the project. Key among them was limited funds to ensure sustainability of the project after the 18 months. The collaborating agencies in themselves are constrained financially

and therefore find it difficult to mobilize resources to continue such projects. The GES was overwhelmed with the number of children being brought to school as a result of the awareness-raising on the importance of education and found themselves appealing for more furniture and educational materials to contain the overflow. The Department of Social Development (DSD) had the requisite staff to provide counseling and rehabilitation services to children at risk and survivors of abuse, but lacked the adequate logistics to undertake these activities. There is over-reliance on the donor community by these organizations to be able to perform their mandate which leads to stagnation when donor funding is not available. They reiterated for instance that, they needed certain logistics to equip them adequately to be more efficient in addressing the problem of CSEC and child labour in general. Resources such as office equipment, vehicles, funds, shelters for victims etc. were absent and therefore stagnated their efforts.

4.8 Theoretical Framework and Findings of the Study

The logic model as explained by scholars such as Kirkpatrick (2001), Rossi et al (1991), Kellogg Foundation (2001), McLaughlin & Jordan (1999), Millar et al (2001), etc, is used to plan and evaluate projects such as the one being studied. It shows a flow and path of resources (inputs), interventions (activities), actors (stakeholders / participants) and expected results (various levels of outcomes) all in a bid to address a specific issue and attain desired outcomes.

- **The Problem**

As was found in the project plan, there was clearly a problem, the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), which needed to be addressed.

- **Inputs**

Funds and logistics were allocated by ILO for use by International Needs Ghana and the other collaborating agencies to implement the project activities. These were provided quarterly from the inception to the completion of the project.

- **Project Activities**

Project activities included:

- Training sessions for district and community levels structures
- Disseminating information on child labour, CSEC and the importance of education
- Supporting selected vulnerable children directly and
- Monitoring progress.

Outputs

Immediately following the activities were the following results:

- District and community child labour monitoring committees were trained to identify vulnerable children and monitor their progress after support.
- Awareness raising programmes were organized in project communities, schools, on TV and radio
- 304 vulnerable children (instead of the originally targeted 300) were selected for support (according to the selection criteria)
- Selected children were counseled, enrolled in formal education and vocational training centres and provided with necessary stationery, tools / kits and other support.

- Committees conducted periodic visits to beneficiaries to follow up on their progress after they had been supported under the project.

- **Outcomes**

The use of the funds and the implementation of the activities were geared towards increasing knowledge on child labour and protection among the communities, promoting support for children and consequently promoting safe communities to reduce the vulnerabilities of children to sexual exploitation.

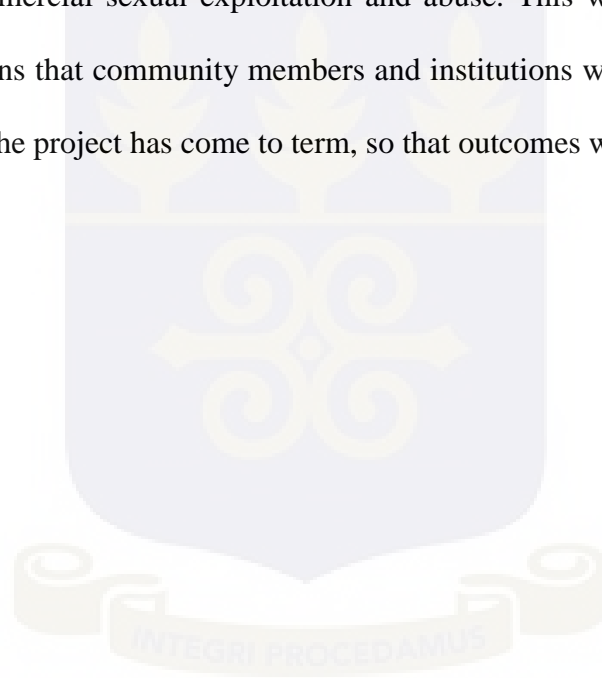
Relating the logic model to the evaluation of the project, findings from both primary and secondary data sources indicated that CSEC was indeed a problem in the selected communities as they exhibited characteristics such as poverty and impoverishment, idleness of children, exposure to exploitation, etc.

Findings from the study confirmed the activities in the project reports and more; the financial support which was not initially a component of the project, but was later incorporated to be done on a pilot basis, to enhance the outcomes of the project.

This research also revealed that, even though the original plan was to support 50 victims of CSEC and 250 children at risk to CSEC, all the children supported turned out to be at risk to CSEC. Perhaps there were victims among them who during profiling, for fear of stigmatization or sensitivity of the issue did not divulge any information showing that they were victims.

Even though the longer term benefits could not be assessed, the short term results suggest that the project achieved its objectives of increasing awareness about the problem and building the capacities of child protection structures at the different levels to address the issue and monitor the progress of beneficiaries.

Going by the flow of the logic model, therefore, it is expected that an impact evaluation of the same project may show an achievement of the longer term outcomes; a safer environment for children, devoid of commercial sexual exploitation and abuse. This will however also depend largely on the assumptions that community members and institutions will be willing to continue playing their roles after the project has come to term, so that outcomes will be sustained.



CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the research findings in relation to the objectives and makes meaningful recommendations to appropriate development partners on issues arising from the study.

5.2. Summary of Findings and Conclusion

A summary of the findings as stated in chapter four above tend to answer the research questions that were posed in chapter one.

The research sought mainly to assess the outcomes of an ILO/IPEC funded project to combat CSEC in Accra. In doing this, it was guided by four main objectives which are finding out whether the project achieved its objectives, whether awareness on child labour and CSEC had increased, whether the project had benefited the intended beneficiaries and if some of the child beneficiaries were involved in child labour even after the project interventions. The broad assumption was that the project was effective in meeting the needs of its target groups.

The theoretical framework (the logic model) that guided the planning and implementation of the project and subsequently this research, illustrated the link and journey between the problem of CSEC in Accra and the desired situation; outlining in between these, the resources needed for the project, the specific activities and participants / beneficiaries, the short, medium and long-term

outcomes (the desired situation). This would ensure that children enjoy their full rights in a safe society, which will further enhance their development and well being.

Findings and discussions in the previous chapters reveal that ING achieved its objectives of creating awareness on child labour and CSEC, preventing children at risk from engaging in CSEC and providing social support to some poor families. Over 300 children benefited from the project interventions and 36 female caregivers also benefited from the financial assistance component of the project. This they did through the numerous programmes they organized such as community educational durbars, film shows and drama, children's fora in the forms of debates among first and second cycle institutions in the communities. These were also done in collaboration with governmental as well as community level organizations. Notable among them were the Department for Social Development, the Ghana Education Service, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly, the Child Labour Unit, Chiefs, Queen mothers and elders in the various communities, some Assembly men and women and CBOs.

The findings generally revealed that there are a lot of children vulnerable to CSEC in indigenous settlements and urban slums in the Greater Accra Region. Their situation is due mainly to poverty in the area, as well as family dysfunction, as most of them are part of large families which are being headed by single parents, mostly the mothers, who earn little from the petty trading they engage in. This compels children in the families to engage in different kinds of commercial activities to supplement family income, thereby increasing their vulnerability to CSEC.

The study further found that even though community members now have a clearer understanding of child labour, its nature, causes and consequences, they have not taken any steps from within to eliminate the activity.

Also, from the study it can be seen that even though the project implemented by ING was considered laudable by community members, a lot more needs to be done to eliminate the practice. Observations made during the study (after the project life) showed that some of the children had dropped out of training because they had gotten pregnant and could not continue. Interactions with some of the trainers and beneficiaries revealed that they had dropped out because their caregivers refused to assist them financially leading to them offering sexual favours to men for money to acquire their basic needs. One of the girls facing such hardships said ***“I live with my auntie who no longer provides for me because I cannot help her to sell in the market. She said that the people who put me in training should continue taking care of me. She has even threatened to throw me out of her house. I therefore rely on my Madam and friends for money to buy even food. I am pleading with ING to give me some spending money because I do not want sleep with men for money”***. This was confirmed by her trainer who said she sometimes has to feed some of her trainees. She said some of the other girls had resorted to sleeping with men for money.

From the responses given by the beneficiaries, it was obvious that they were all at risk to CSEC before the inception of the project. Even though some of them had admitted to having sex with their boyfriends, they all denied their involvement in CSEC. This is perhaps due to the illicit and

hidden nature of the activity and the unwillingness of some respondents to divulge information about their involvement in CSEC.

Children who were at risk to child labour and CSEC were supported to acquire formal education and vocational skills. In all, 209 children were enrolled in basic schools and supported with uniforms, books and stationery and payment of levies, whilst 65 children were enrolled into informal vocational training centres in the project communities, to acquire employable skills of their choice through apprenticeship. This may have reduced the probability of their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation as they had less time to idle and expose themselves.

Respondents attested to the fact that they had learnt about child labour, CSEC and the importance of education, through the sensitization programs that were organized by ING.

Participants stated that, being in school and vocational training gave them a greater focus for the future. The vocational skills trainees especially saw their training as an opportunity to use their skills being acquired to earn a more decent living than they would if they were unskilled and unemployed.

Female caregivers of the children who were supported financially also said that even though the amounts they received were small, it would help boost their business and with time they would provide more adequately for their families. The knowledge they also acquired during the sensitization programs would increase their vigilance in protecting their children from abuse and exploitation.

The project assisted 304 vulnerable children who were, prior to the project inception, not in school or vocational training. As a result of the interventions, 65 children were enrolled in vocational training whilst the remaining 209 were enrolled in school and supported with educational materials, training kits, counseling and monitoring.

Again, the study revealed that as a result of the knowledge the female caregivers especially had acquired on child labour and CSEC, they had resolved to protect their children more to prevent them from becoming victims of abuse and exploitation.

The theoretical framework in chapter two is also relevant as the study shows the journey from the problem of CSEC to the desired outcome of eliminating the problem and promoting a safe environment for children to grow and develop. The effects of CSEC can be dire on the lives of the children. However, with adequate inputs, implementation of the right activities, engagement of the key stakeholders, working with the right and realistic assumptions and the influence of positive external factors, desired outcomes and impacts can be achieved. The project interventions however gave beneficiaries the hope of a brighter future as they saw more value being added to their lives to enable them reach their desired goals as is expected by the logic model.

5.3 Recommendations

These findings necessitated the making of some recommendations to government, civil society organization and institutions. The problem of child labour and CSEC is enormous and cannot be

tackled only by external organizations. Therefore the following recommendations have been made.

- The government should adequately equip institutions with child protection mandates to be able to play their roles effectively in society. These institutions have called for child protection projects to be replicated nationwide as the problem of child labour and CSEC was a growing on and not peculiar to Accra alone.
- Regular training should be organized for personnel in these institutions to keep them abreast with world standards of interacting with children, protecting children from abusers and professionally handling cases of abuse and exploitation of children.
- National statistics of population and labour force usually do not capture CSEC. In order for interventions to be more focused and benefit the right target groups, more intensive research should be conducted to ascertain the actual numbers of children involved in CSEC in Ghana and a map of their operation sites.
- Law enforcement agencies and institutions such as the police service and courts should be strengthened to assist in the withdrawal of victims of CSEC and bring to book the promoters and perpetrators of the practice. They should also be involved in interventions to eliminate CSEC right from the planning stage through to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages and be well equipped with the right personnel and requisite logistics to be able to prosecute perpetrators of the crime.

- Donors and implementers of programs to combat CSEC should allocate adequate resources towards the rehabilitation of victims of CSEC and social support for their caregivers. This should include enough stipends for children enrolled in vocational training centres during the period of their training and start up equipment after their training.
- There should be more rigorous nationwide sensitization and awareness raising on CSEC and other forms of exploitative labour. This should be carried out in institutions and communities using the media and other forms of education and communication acceptable to the groups. Information dissemination should employ forms of entertainments to arouse and sustain the interest of audiences. With enough information, caregivers would increase measures to protect their children from becoming victims.
- Education on child rights, child labour and CSEC should be mainstreamed into the educational curriculum to ensure that children are well equipped with the right information and also know what actions to take when faced with such issues affecting them.

5.4. Implications of the Study

- **Implications for Policy**

It is expected that findings from this study and the recommendations will contribute to the review and enhancement of policies regarding the operations of child protection mandated institutions in Ghana. Currently, there are a number of policies in place to promote child rights. There is however the need to review portion of these policies and ensure that they are implemented to the letter and monitored.

- **Implication for Social Work Practice**

Social workers use their skills to facilitate social change and are committed to service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity and competence (National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 2008) and all the core values that are essential in serving commercially sexually exploited children who have not been treated with dignity by their traffickers or the people who use them. Therefore the Association of Social Workers in Ghana can help raise awareness regarding CSEC in the various communities and implement other interventions to ensure that children are protected from abuse and exploitation.



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APPENDIX 1

Assessment Questionnaire for Child Beneficiaries of the Project to Eliminate Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Accra (CSEC)

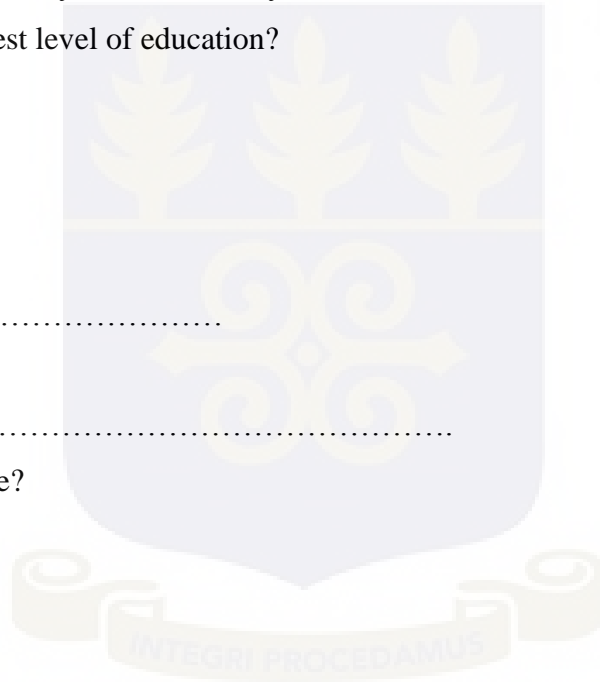
Section 1 - Socio-demographic Information

1. Gender
 - i. Male
 - ii. Female

2. How old were you on your last birthday?
3. What is your highest level of education?
 - i. Kindergarten
 - ii. Primary
 - iii. JSS
 - iv. No education
 - v. Other (specify).....

4. Ethnicity
5. Where do you live?
 - i. James Town
 - ii. La
 - iii. Chorkor
 - iv. Mamprobi
 - v. Accra
 - vi. Other (specify)

6. Who do you live with?
 - i. Both parents
 - ii. Mother alone
 - iii. Father alone
 - iv. Relative



- v. Alone
- vi. Other (specify).....

7. Who provides most of your needs?

- i. Both parents
- ii. Mother alone
- iii. Father alone
- iv. Brother
- v. Sister
- vi. Friend
- vii. Relative
- viii. Yourself
- ix. Other (specify)

(Write the number of the relative who provides most of the needs listed below)

Food

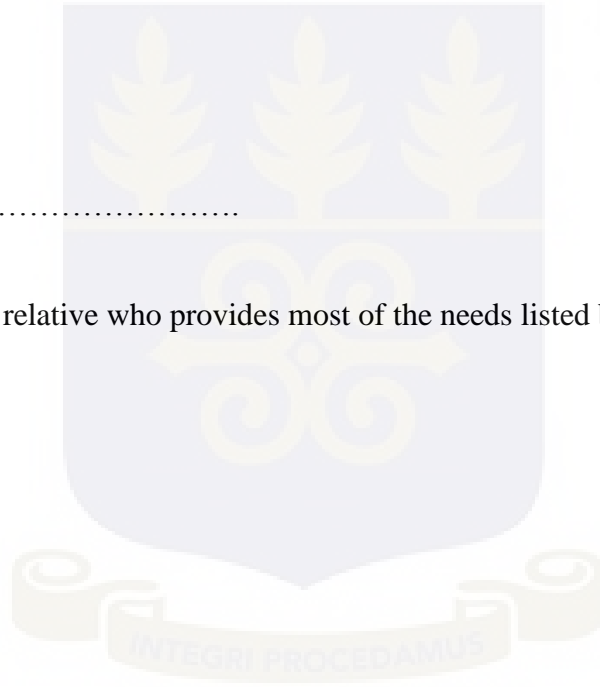
Clothing

Accommodation

Money for school

Books

Health care



8. What is you mother's occupation

9. What is your father's occupation

10. How many siblings do you have?

Section 3 - Knowledge about Child Labour and CSEC

11. Have you heard about child labour

- i. Yes
- ii. No

12. If yes, how did you get to hear about it?

13. Briefly describe a child labour situation?
.....
.....
.....

14. Have you worked during the last one year?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

15. If yes, what kind of work did you do?
.....
.....
.....

16. How many days in a week did you work?

17. When did you work?

- i. Weekdays (during school hours)
- ii. Weekdays (after school hours)
- iii. Weekends
- iv. During holidays

18. How many hours did you work in a day?.....

19. Were you paid?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

- 20. If yes, how were you paid
 - i. Cash
 - ii. Kind
 - iii. Other (specify)

- 21. If in cash, how often were you paid?
 - i. Daily
 - ii. Weekly
 - iii. Fortnightly
 - iv. Other

22. How much were you paid?

23. If in kind, what were you given?

- i. Food
- ii. Clothes
- iii. Healthcare
- iv. Shelter
- v. Other

(specify).....

24. Are you still working?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

25. If yes, what kind of work are you doing?

..... If no, go to Q27

26. Why are you still working?

.....
.....

27. Do you know what Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

28. If yes, explain it. If no, go to Q32

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

29. Were you ever involved in it?

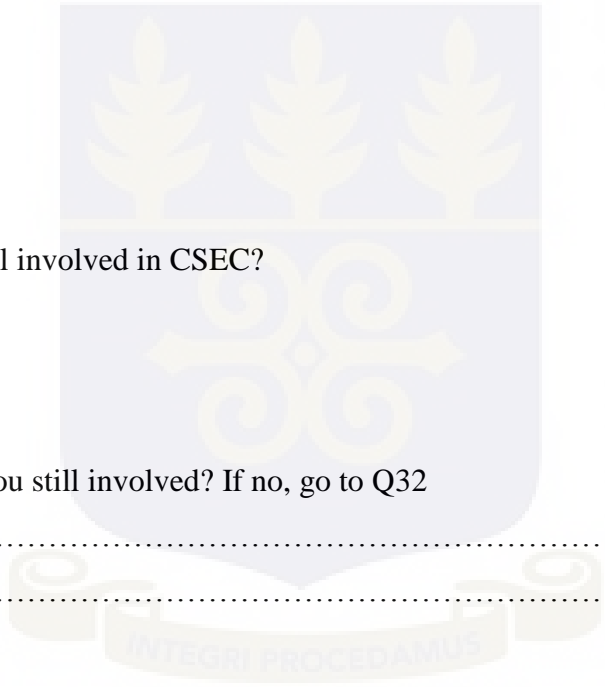
- i. Yes
- ii. No

30. If yes, are you still involved in CSEC?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

31. If yes, why are you still involved? If no, go to Q32

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



Section 3 - Impact of Project Interventions on Child Beneficiaries

32. In which of these institutions are you

- i. Basic school
- ii. Dressmaking shop
- iii. Hairdressing shop
- iv. Other (specify).....

33. Who enrolled you into that institution?

.....

34. How satisfied are you there?

- i. Not satisfied
- ii. Satisfied
- iii. Very satisfied

35. Explain the reason for your answer

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

36. Has the project had any impact on your life?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

37. Explain the reason for your answer

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

38. What do you hope to become in future?

39. Is there any recommendation you would like to make?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

40. If yes, what is it?

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Questionnaire for Female caregivers of Beneficiary Children.

Dear Madam, I am an M'Phil student of the Department of Social Work, University of Ghana Legon conducting an assessment of the outcomes of the ILO/IPEC project to combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Accra. This research is part of the requirements to enable me complete the course and earn the M'Phil Degree in Social Work.

I assure you that the answers will be used only for analysis and your information will be treated with confidentiality.

Thank you very much for your cooperation

The questionnaire will be administered to female caregivers/parents of children who benefited from interventions under the project.

Section 1 – Socio – Demographic Information

1. Sex
 - i. Male
 - ii. Female

2. Age.....
3. Place of residence
4. Ethnicity
5. Religion

6. Educational background
 - i. No education
 - ii. Kindergarten
 - iii. Primary
 - iv. Middle school
 - v. Secondary
 - vi. Vocational/technical
 - vii. Tertiary

7. Occupation

8. Marital status

I. Single

II. Married

III. Divorced

IV. Widowed

V. Separated

VI. Cohabitation

9. Number of children – Male.....
Female.....

Section 2 - Knowledge about Child Labour and CSEC

10. Have you heard of child labour

i. Yes

ii. No

11. If yes, how did you hear about it?

12. What are some examples of child labour situations

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

13. Do your children work?

i. Yes

ii. No

14. If yes, why do they work? If no continue to Q16

.....
15. What type of work do they do?
.....
.....
.....

16. Do you know about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

17. If yes, what is it? If no, continue to Q21
.....
.....

18. Does it exist in this community?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

19. If yes, has it had any negative effects on the children involved? If no, continue to section

- 3.
- i. Yes
- ii. No

20. Who are those involved in commercial sex?
.....
.....
.....

21. What are some the factors that push them into commercial sex?
.....
.....
.....

22. Has the community tried to solve the problem?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

23. If yes, how?

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.....

Section 3 – Impact of Project to Combat CSEC

24. What interventions has International Needs implemented in your community?

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25. How successful would you say the project has been?

- i. Not successful
- ii. Partly successful
- iii. Successful
- iv. Very successful

26. State your reason for your answer in Q22

.....
.....

.....
.....
27. Did your child/children benefit from any of the interventions?

I. Yes

II. No

28. If yes, which of the interventions did they benefit from? If no, continue to Q29.

i. Enrollment in school

ii. Vocational training

iii. Counseling

29. Has the project had any impact on your life?

i. Yes

ii. No

30. If yes, what has been the impact? If no, state the reasons for your answer

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31. What remarks would you like to make about the project?

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This questionnaire seeks to find out the extent to which the project to eliminate CSEC in Accra was successful, challenges faced and the way forward.

1. Name of organization / agency

2. Name of project

3. Duration of project

4. Objectives of the project

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5. Project activities

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6. What strategy(ies) was used to implement project activities?

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7. What were some of the responses from the communities?

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8. What were the outcomes of the project?

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9. Would you say it was successful?

10. If yes, why?

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11. If no, why?

12. Were there any challenges faced during the implementation of project activities?

13. If, yes, what were some of these challenges?

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14. What measures did you put in place to check these challenges?

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15. Are there any recommendations you would like to make to the Donor Agency?

16. If yes, what are they?

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This questionnaire seeks to find out the roles other collaborating agencies / organizations played in the implementation of the project to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children in Accra.

1. Name of organization / agency
2. Name of project
3. Duration of project
4. How was your organization involved in the implementation of the project?

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5. What were some of the responses from the beneficiaries / communities?

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6. What were the outcomes of the project?

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7. Would you say it was successful?

8. If yes, why?

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9. If no, why?

10. Were there any challenges faced during the implementation of project activities?

11. If, yes, what were some of these challenges?

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12. What measures did you put in place to check these challenges?

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13. Are there any recommendations you would like to make to the Donor Agency?

14. If yes, what are they?

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