

# A study on violence against children with special focus on sexual exploitation and child sex tourism in Ghana

Insights from Kumasi metropolis and Asokore Mampong municipality in the Ashanti Region

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# **Defence for Children International**

**A STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEX TOURISM IN GHANA.**

***INSIGHTS FROM KUMASI METROPOLIS AND ASOKORE MAMPONG  
MUNICIPALITY IN THE ASHANTI REGION***

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

All children have the right to be protected from all types of exploitation as documented by United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Ghana is a signatory. However, the world statistics on the extent and nature of violence against children, as well as its effects, are staggering and pose a serious threat to their human rights hence requires attention at every levels of society. As violence against child and its associated effects has become a global problem, Ghana has been facing the problems of violence against children in almost all parts and cultural settings of the country. Ghana ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990 and has since then promulgated many laws and policies as well as establishing institutions and agencies to deal with the issue. This study sought to strengthen existing evidence on violence against children and lobby action to improve child protection. The study focused on four thematic areas of violence against children: the forms of violence; prevalence rate of violence; the effect of violence against children; and existing protective mechanisms of violence against children. This study contributes to literature in diverse ways. First, the study is rich in its qualitative and quantitative approaches used to unearth issues of violence against children and gives an in-depth analogy of the situation. Second, the study relates individual disposition to the various areas of violence against children. Existing literature shows that no extensive work has been conducted in Ghana on how individual characteristic influences a person experiencing violence. The study was conducted in eighteen (18) communities in the Kumasi-Mampong Metropolis in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Primary data was collected through focus group discussions with victims and parents, children and stakeholders through structured interviews and semi-structured interviews. One of the issues that emerged was the similarities in the types and the degree of violence against children that occurs in all the communities studied. The school, the immediate community, the family, workplace and the street were the main settings of violence against children. Most of the causes of violence against children were found to be economic and socio-cultural related factors. The study recommends re-orientation of society on the various forms of violence against children and the right of the child. Aspects of culture that promotes violence against the child must be discarded. There is also the need to empower families to adequately support children. Building rehabilitation facilities in communities will assist in re-orienting persons with a history of violence. The study further recommends the need to sensitize society on the available avenues to deal with violence against children in order to reduce high incidence of unreported cases. The study finally recommends stiffer punishment for perpetrators of violence against children and a stronger collaboration between stakeholders to deal with the problem.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| ACE    | Adverse Childhood Experiences                                  |
| DCI    | Defence for Children International                             |
| DOC    | Department of Children   |
| DOVVSU | Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit                         |
| ECPACT | End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (DCI-ECPAT) Netherlands |
| GBVC   | Gender-based Violence Court                                    |
| GCEU   | Girl Child Education Unit                                      |
| GES    | Ghana Education Service  |
| GPS    | Ghana Police Service   |
| ILO    | International Labour Organization                              |
| MoGCSP | Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection             |
| OVC    | Orphans and Vulnerable Children                                |
| UNCRC  | United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child           |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund                                 |
| WHO    | World Health Organisation                                      |

## INTRODUCTION

Every child in the world has the right to be protected from all types of violence being physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence including child labour and prostitution. These rights have been documented in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to which most African countries including Ghana are signatories. The General Comment Number 13 issued by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2011 also focused on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence which state parties to the UNCRC were required to implement. Again, the UN General Secretary's Report on Violence against Children (2006) emphasised the need for every child to be respected and have the right to be protected from all forms of violence.

Violence against children has been conceptualised and measured in terms of types, forms, causes, perpetrator-types and the settings of occurrence, making it multi-dimensional and dynamic in nature. Many organisations and individual studies have attempted to define and explain what constitutes child violence, perhaps based on the causes, the effects and level of occurrence. The working definition is what has been given by the UN General Secretary's Report on Violence against Children (2006) as "violence takes place when someone uses their strength or their position of power to hurt someone else on purpose, not by accident". As already mentioned above, this violence could be either physical, sexual or emotional and could be perpetrated by different persons including victims' close relatives.

The world statistics on the extent and nature of child violence as well as its effects are staggering and pose a serious global human rights issue, hence requires attention at every levels of our society. For example, a study by UNICEF (2006) estimates that about 275 million children across the globe suffer from child violence at home. The effect of this, if converted into economic impact or monetary terms, is huge. The Child Fund Alianze Report (Pereznieto, 2014) indicates that the economic impact of child violence is around \$7 trillion as at the time of the study in 2014.

Child violence and its associated effects have become a global problem, and Ghana has been facing the problems of child violence in almost all parts and cultural settings of the country. Ghana ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990 and has since then promulgated many laws and policies as well as establishing institutions and agencies to deal with the issue of child violence. These Acts include the Children's Act 560 (1998); the Domestic Violence Act 732 (2007); the Human Trafficking Act 694 (2005); and Juvenile Justice Act 653 (2003). Among the institutions and agencies established and developed are the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service (GPS); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) (2013); Department of Children (DOC) (2013); Gender-based Violence Court (GBVC); the Girl Child Education Unit (GCEU) of the Ghana Education Service (GES) to address disparity between boys and girls in school enrolment and retention; Free Compulsory Basic Education (1996) to ensure every child of school going age receive basic education up to the age of 15; National Plan of Action on the Elimination of the

Worst Forms of Child Labour in Ghana (2011); National Policy and Plan of Action on Domestic Violence (2009); Under 5 Child Health Policy (2007); Livelihood empowerment against the poor (2007) supporting for the very poor including children and families to survive and live in dignity; Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) (2010) providing support for education and fosterage arrangements for orphans and vulnerable children; National Gender and Children's Policy (2013) to promote gender equality and child protection; and Child and Family Welfare Policy (2015) to ensure child protection policy 'fit' for Ghana (UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations, 2015).

Like everywhere in the world, child violence in Ghana comes in many forms and has a different impact on different victims. As a developing country in Sub-Saharan Africa, the country is characterised by rapid population growth, high rates of urbanisation, low standard of education, high levels of poverty, and income inequalities among many other factors. For example, from the year 2000 to 2010, Ghana's population grew by about 30% with more populace settling in the already over populated areas of Greater Accra and Ashanti Regions (Ghana Population and Housing Census, 2010). These characteristics make the country prone to many vices including violence against children. For example, studies have shown that high rates of poverty and income inequalities are some of the main causes of sexual and economic violence (UNICEF, 2008; Nafziger & Auvinen, 2002; Basu & Van, 1998). Despite the many anti child violence laws, policies, institutions and organisations, Ghana is still far away from the fight against child violence. A day never passes without report(s) of some sort on violence against children in the country. Some of the questions then become: is the government committed enough to fight the violence being perpetrated against children? Are there enough and effective anti-child violence laws, policies or institutions? Are there preventive mechanisms? If there are, are they context and situational specific or generic?

With respect to the study area, increased urbanisation and poverty in the Kumasi metropolis and Asokore Mampong Municipality have greatly contributed to violence against children in their communities. Families are more concerned about their livelihoods by engaging in economic activities at the expense of caring for their children and wards. Some children also migrate from other parts of the country in search of greener pastures while others are trafficked internally for economic exploitation. Again, most children of poor families are made to hawk in the streets to supplement the family income and/or cater for themselves. These situations expose many children in these areas to violence and continuous violation of their rights. Violence against children in homes, schools, and within the communities is rampant. The child protection systems in these two areas are weak due to limited skills, budgets, social protection services, low accountability and reporting on protection against violence.

### **1.0 Motivation for the Study**

The cost of child violence is so enormous that it requires a proactive and multifaceted approach in finding sustainable preventive mechanisms. The Child Fund Alianze Report (Pereznieto,

2014) reports that physical, psychological and sexual violence all have an estimated cost of about 3% to 8% of global GDP. This cost includes drug abuse, various forms of diseases and ailments, injuries, psychological and emotional trauma among many others. With this cost and many other indirect effects, child violence requires attention at both global and regional levels.

Since the UN comprehensive world report on child violence (Pinheiro, 2006), many other studies have attempted to replicate either part or the whole report in other regions or jurisdiction. In order to prevent the cost of child violence and its associated effects, such comprehensive and detailed reports are required for an evidence-based advocacy and action plan. Ghana is an example of Sub-Saharan African country that needs such an evidence-based study to initiate an appropriate preventive mechanism or policy to deal with child violence. Even though there have been some studies (United Nations, 2013) on eliminating and preventing child violence at international, regional and national levels, there are still some equally crucial contexts and settings that child violence can be addressed. Thus, apart from child violence studies at the national levels, there is the need to have cultural and community specific child violence issues studied to effectively inform decision making policies and actions that are also cultural and community centered. Despite the Acts and other state institutions established with the sole aim of fighting and eradicating child violence, Ghana has not been successful in this fight as there are still high rates of some forms or types of child violence in some parts of the country (for example, UNICEF Report on Ghana's Sexual Violence and Exploitation, 2008). This fact has also been emphasized in the concluding observations by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Ghana's 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> State report in June 2015. Hence, there are crucial questions that need to be answered as far as the fight against violence against children is concerned.

Accordingly, this study sought to find community and cultural specific empirically based evidence of the causes and effects of the various types and forms of child violence, the settings (places of occurrence) and perpetrators of this violence within the chosen area of Ghana. The study also sought to examine the existing (if any) policies whether 'formal' or 'informal' that are there in the study areas.

### **1.1 Rationale for the Study**

The rationale for the study is to have first-hand evidence of the dynamics of child violence that will in turn inform policies on preventive mechanisms. Thus, the study examined the nature and extent of child violence and assessed the child protection system, in order to strengthen policy advocacy and lobby action to help reduce child violence and improve child protection systems. Significantly, this study achieved the following value in the subject matter of violence against children:

- It contributes to the global knowledge on violence against children regarding the quantitative and qualitative analysis of the findings.

- It specifically complements the larger study conducted by the Defence for Children International - ECPAT Netherlands on violence against children with special focus on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- It forms the basis and provides justification for further studies in the areas of violence against children.
- It provides opportunity for evidence-based advocacy on violence against children at the local communities, districts, national, regional and international levels in terms of policy, programme, action and strategic initiatives.

Accordingly, the study had the following objectives to achieve:

1. To identify the various forms/nature of violence against children;
2. To assess the level of prevalence of violence against children;
3. To identify the causes of violence against children;
4. To assess the impact of violence against children on child development; and
5. To assess the protection systems/measures for violence against children.

## **1.2 Organization of the Study**

The rest of the report consists of four (4) sections. Section 2 looks at the review of previous studies on child violence and a conceptual framework of the study. Section 3 deals with the methods of the study including all the processes and procedures adopted in order to arrive at the study's findings. Section 4 presents and discusses the findings of the study while Section 5 contains the conclusions reached from the study's findings and subsequent policy and action recommendations.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter reviews available literature on the issue of child violence globally. The review area includes the global (including Ghana) overview of child violence, the existing types of child violence and their effects as well as the fight against its perpetuation.

### **2.1 A Global Overview of Violence against Children**

Violence against children has been a significant health and human rights problem around the world, especially in African countries with Ghana not being an exception. In most cases, violence against children is seen as a violation against children's right to live a free and healthy life. Thus, it is a worldwide phenomenon that denies people equality, violates human rights, injures and even kills. Violence against children, whether physical, psychological, sexual and/or economic all have devastating effects on their victims. Accordingly, violence against children is seen as a "significant global health and human rights problem. It spares no nation, rich or poor, and spans the boundaries of geography, culture, race, class, and religion" (a brief from UNICEF Swaziland, 2008). A snapshot of global statistics on child violence indicates the following:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated that almost 53,000 children were murdered worldwide in 2002. A survey from a wide range of countries found that between 20 and 65 per cent of school-aged children reported having been bullied, verbally or physically. WHO estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 were forced to have sex or experienced other forms of sexual violence in 2002 (United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, 2006).

### **2.2 The State of Violence against Children in Ghana**

Ghana currently has a population of about 24 million with relatively young people having a greater portion of the total population. About 38.3% of the population are below the age of 18 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2010). Accordingly, policies that protect and improve child rights and responsibilities ought to be encouraged. In Ghana, like many other sub-Saharan African countries, violence against children is seen and at times recorded in almost all households with its devastating effects. A research by UNICEF, Ghana in 2000 revealed that many Ghanaian children had no or poor access to basic necessities such as health and education with an increasing mortality rate and under nutrition.

Ghana has, in recent times, faced many challenges in terms of child abuse and child labour due to rapid population growth and urbanization. Ghana's efforts to promote and protect children's rights began about two decades ago. The country's first stride was the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1990. The promulgation and ratification of this Convention gave the government of Ghana some justification to formulate and

implement laws and policies that sought to protect the rights of children and deal with violence against children. After ratification in 1990, Ghana took further steps to fight against child abuse by initiating various Acts and legislations. For instance, in 1992, a ten (10) year national program titled “The Child Cannot Wait” was developed in an attempt to satisfy some of the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In December 1998, the Children’s Act (Act 560) was also promulgated as a step to prevent violence against children and to protect children’s rights. The Act which defines a child as any person below the age of 18, among other things states that it is an Act to *reform and consolidate the law relating to children, to provide for the rights of the child, maintenance and adoption, regulate child labour and apprenticeship, for ancillary matters concerning children generally and to provide for related matters*. Thus, the Children’s Act is the domestication of the UNCRC into Ghanaian laws. At the sub-regional level, the ‘African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child’ was entered and agreed to by all member states on November 29, 1999 (about 9 years after the UN Convention on the Rights of the child). This Charter, which defines a child as any human being below the age of 18 years (similar to the definition of Ghana’s Child Act), has its primary aim of protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of children. For example, Article I of the Charter explains that all member states must protect the freedom and rights of children and the cultural practices and acts that are inconsistent with the Charter should be discouraged. Ghana being part of the ratification of this Charter has and continue to put in place both punitive and curative measures to safeguard the rights of children thereby protecting them from any form of violence. Again, to deal with the phenomenon of domestic violence of which violence against children is part, the Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732) which provides protection from domestic violence particularly for women and children and for connected purposes was enacted in 2007. It is clear from the Act that children are one of the two major beneficiaries of the Act. The Act was enacted with the Domestic Violence Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service mandated to ensure its implementation. The core function of this unit is to investigate all cases of domestic violence and child abuse especially those involving females and children. Another Act that has been promulgated to check other forms of violence against children and is consistent with the UN Convention on Human Trafficking (1949), is the Human Trafficking Act of 2005. The purpose of the Act is for *the prevention, reduction and punishment of human trafficking, for the rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked persons and for related matters*. Like the other Acts, this Act works to indirectly prevent some forms of violence like child labour and child prostitution.

Despite these international and national legal frameworks, Ghana is far from ending violence against children as the rates of child and domestic violence keeps increasing. The challenge against the fight on violence against children has to do with the effective implementation of these laws and policies. These weaknesses include the public’s ignorance of the existence of such legislation. Another challenge is the limited data and documented cases of violence against children to support policy direction and action programming. Thus, the lack of reliable and valid



data on violence against children seems to be undermining any significant progress in Ghana's quest to reduce, if not to end, the menace.

### **2.3 Explaining Violence against Children**

There have been many definitions and terms to explain 'violence' whether it is against children, young people or women and girls. For example, the UN Secretary General's study on violence against young children (2006) explains that violence "takes place when someone uses their strength or their position of power to hurt someone else on purpose, not by accident." This violence can either take the form of physical, sexual, psychological and/or emotional as well as economic violence. The World Health Organisation (WHO) report on Violence and Health (2002) sees it as intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation" (Krug et al., 2002). The Innocenti Digest and UNICEF (2000) limited the definition of violence to 'domestic' by explaining that "domestic violence includes violence against women and girls by an intimate partner, including a cohabiting partner, and by other family members, whether this violence occurs within or beyond the confines of the home". Thus, 'violence' is generally seen as a physical force that has the potential of inflicting visible damage and/or injuries.

From the forgoing explanations, the most common meaning given to violence places much emphasis on visible injuries without giving attention to emotional or psychological violence, which damages equally.

### **2.4. Settings and Victims of Child Violence**

Violence against children occurs in many settings including schools, churches, workplaces, communities among many others. For example, the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence against Children (2006) found that children experience violence in five different settings or places: at home; in school or other educational settings; in institutions such as orphanages, children's homes; in prisons or other detention centres; in the workplace; and in the community.

However, it is important to note that some settings experience more violence than others as the perpetrators of violence are commonly found in some settings, specifically, in schools and homes. A national survey in Swaziland indicates that sexual violence is most likely to occur in the home and other public places such as schools (a brief from UNICEF Swaziland, 2008). The reality or statistics on violence against children had been rare until the last 5 to 8 years. The first attempt to have proper documentation of the real case of violence against children was the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children (2006). This study came out with the nature, extent and causes of violence against children at various settings. The findings of the study indicate that violence against children happens in every country and society

and across all social groups (a brief from UNICEF Swaziland, 2008). The study further bemoaned the lack of detailed data on violence against children to inform policy directions including child protection systems. Another area of violence against children worth noting is the type of victims who are more likely to suffer violence (thus some personality characteristics of children that may make them prone to violence). For example, it is mostly common to find girls and children with disabilities being victims of one form of violence or the other than their counterparts. In a child violence study, Jones et al., (2012) found that overall, children with disabilities are more likely to suffer from violence. On an average, children with disabilities were 3.7 times more likely to be victims of violence, specifically, 3.6 times more likely to be victims of physical violence and 2.9 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence. Children with mental or intellectual impairments appear to be among the most vulnerable, with 4.6 times the risk of sexual violence.

This classification of child violence in terms of settings and most likely victims helps the direction of advocacy and policy formulation as well as the most salient areas for future research. This study's point of departure is having these classifications in mind and relating it to a culturally specific context. For example, child violence will be most likely in homes than in the work place and vice-versa depending on where children and perpetrators are found within a particular period of time.

## **2.5 Forms of Violence against Children**

Many global reports, including the UN Secretary Generals' Report (2006) on violence against children, have documented the forms of violence to include physical violence; sexual violence; and psychological and economic violence. This section of the study reviews some previous studies on these forms of violence including possible causes and effects.

### **2.5.1 Physical Violence**

There are various forms or classification of physical violence; and there have been many studies that have confirmed the prevalence of physical violence (across all groups of people in all parts of the globe) (Innocenti Digest and UNICEF, 2000). Physical violence, whether mild or serious, include slapping or having things thrown at children; being pushed; cornered or having victims ears or hair pulled; being kicked, dragged or given a beating; being burned (or attempted burning); or threatened with a pistol, or knife. A national survey in Georgia on domestic violence against women by Chitashvili et al. (2010) gave the following statistics on some forms and/or classification of physical violence against women:

- ❖ Getting slapped, or hurt by having something thrown at her - 6.8% - moderate violence;
- ❖ Getting hurt by a punch or hit with something else – 3.9% - severe violence;

- ❖ Pushed, or shoved, or pulled by hair – 2.9% - moderate violence;
- ❖ Kicked, dragged, or beaten up – 2.0% - severe violence;
- ❖ Choked or burnt – 1.6% - severe violence; and
- ❖ Threatened with – or actually hurt with - a gun, knife or other weapon– 1.0% - severe violence.

In addition, a UNICEF study of 37 countries found that about 86% of children aged 2-14 were subjected to violent discipline (physical punishment) by a parent or caregiver (UNICEF, 2010b). Similar studies found high percentages of bullying, corporal punishment and humiliating of both boys and girls in some developing countries (WHO, 2004).

A study conducted by the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF, 2010) sought to determine the occurrence of physical violence as well as the most dominant forms. A sample of 3,025 young women aged between 18 and 24 years were selected from the various countries. The results showed that beating and hitting were the most reported forms of physical violence in almost all the countries in the study. For example, the percentage of beating as a form of physical violence in the countries included Nigeria (90%), Senegal (83%) and Cameroon (79%). The second highest form of physical violence was hitting with Burkina Faso (91%), Nigeria (84%) and DRC (74%) as the leading countries, while Senegal and Cameroon reported relatively low figures of 52% and 43%, respectively. From the study, the third most reported form of physical violence is the denial of food to the victims. Since this was a study on domestic violence, the findings of the study showed that perpetrators of these acts were mostly mothers, other relatives, peers and adult neighbours. Findings of the above studies indicate how severe and common the occurrence of physical violence various across the globe, especially in developing countries. Another revelation of these studies is the fact that perpetrators of this violence are close relatives who live in the same homes as the victims.

### **2.5.2 Psychological Violence**

The Child Protection Referral Procedures (Violence against children in Georgia, 2013) uses the various forms of psychological violence to define it. Psychological violence is seen as “assault, blackmail, humiliation, threatening or any other action that hurt the pride and dignity of a child and might impose danger to the health and life of a child”. Unlike physical violence, it is quite difficult quantitatively measuring psychological violence such as emotional and mental torture. According to the Innocenti Digest and UNICEF (2000), it is difficult to measure and capture some forms of psychological violence in most studies. The National Coalition against Domestic Violence (2010) in the USA gave some examples of psychological abuse to include denying the victim access to money or economic support; harassing the victim at work or school; threatening to injure, or permanently disfigure, or kill the victim and/or loved ones; damaging the victim’s

property; preventing the victim from eating, sleeping, or forced injection of victims; and threatening or physically abusing the victim's pet.

A study conducted in Nigeria reports that the most prevalent forms of abuse are being threatened and personal threats of physical harm, being shouted at and insults. The most affected victims of these forms of violence are children between the ages of 14 and 17 years (ACPF, 2010). Perpetrators of these forms of violence are direct family relatives and teachers at home and at school respectively. The difficulty in measuring some forms of psychological violence makes its studies difficult as well, hence empirical evidence is less forthcoming. For example, forms like teasing and insults can only be self-reported measures.

### **2.5.3 Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence is explained as "Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim." This definition includes rape, defined as physically forced or otherwise coerced penetration of the vulva or anus, using a penis, other body parts or an object (Krug et al., 2002). This model suggests that sexual assault is not an act of sexual desire or biology. Krug et al. (2002) further stated that sexual violence is the second most reported crime against children in Brazil, with most victims aged between 10 and 14. According to Plan International, in 2011 alone, more than 10,000 children and adolescents were reported as being victims of sexual abuse, some as young as 11 years (Plan International, 2014).

Perpetrators are driven by a desire for power and domination and aim to hurt, control and humiliate the victim. Sexual assault is an act of violence, and sex is the weapon. Sexual violence and its associated forms have been the most commonly perpetuated violence against children as compared to the other types of violence. For instance, a survey conducted in Cameroon in 2005 found that 16% of secondary students questioned had experienced sexual abuse, with 15% of these incidents occurring at school. Sexual violence against children takes several forms including touching, caressing some part of the body, sexual molestation, watching pornographic movies and materials, forced sexual intercourse or rape among many others. According to the study conducted by ACPF (2010), being talked to in a sexual manner was reported as the most widespread and dominant form of sexual violence against children in the five countries. For example, Burkina Faso reported about 81% while Nigeria and Senegal reported about 65% of this form of sexual violence. However, other forms of sexual violence such as forced sexual intercourse/rape was also common in countries like Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Cameroon.

The victims of sexual violence are usually gender biased targeted at female victims. Many studies (Pinherio, 2006; Avid et al., 2007; ACPF, 2010) have shown that girls are the common victims of sexual violence. In his study, Pinherio (2006) explains that gender plays a key role in

the extent and nature of violence perpetuated against children, as girls and boys are at different risk for different kinds of violence.

Accordingly, Avid et al. (2007) reports that approximately 5% of females experienced forced intercourse and approximately 9% experience coerced intercourse before their 18th birthday. Another variable in the equation of sexual violence is the settings of occurrence. Like physical violence, sexual violence could also occur at home, school and in the communities. In 2005 a study conducted in Islamabad-Pakistan and reported that around 6% of sexual abuse against young women occurs at home more than in other settings, and is the most hidden and under-reported type of violence against children in South Asian countries. Perpetrators of sexual violence at such locations are usually close relatives and family friends whom victims trust. Even though being exposed to pornography has been mentioned as a form of violence, this current study does anticipate high rates of such form of sexual violence because of restrictive access and exposure to pornographic materials.

#### **2.5.4 Economic Violence**

From many studies, economic violence takes the form of child labour, child trafficking and child prostitution and/or child commercial sex working. Child labour and/or economic violence is quite a complex issue and difficult to do proper quantitative and qualitative study on. Sometimes it is difficult to determine which form of work constitutes child labour and at what age can a child be classified as a victim of the child labour. For example, the International Labour Organisation admits policy inconsistencies, like the existence of a gap between the school-leaving age and the minimum age for employment, which exacerbates the situation in many countries (ILO, 2002). Diallo et al. (2013) documents that about 85.3 million children in the world are involved in one form of hazardous work or other. In regional terms, Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest incidence of child labour as one child out of every five is involved in child labour as compared to lower rates in other regions like Latin America and the Caribbean. Child labour is usually used as a parental strategy for the household to survive economically.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) explains child labour or child economic violence as all forms of work by children under the age laid down in ILO standards, which is usually 15 years. The ILO gives the form of child labour or economic violence to include slavery, debt bondage, prostitution, pornography, forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, use of children in drug trafficking and other illicit activities, and all other works likely to be harmful or hazardous to the health of children. The causes of this form of violence against children are quite multi-faceted usually involving social and economic and/or financial reasons. These include inadequate social protection, and under-resourced and poor educational systems as major causes (ILO, 2002). Mostly, where victims or potential victims are from poor homes and are

enticed by financial gains, they voluntarily move in (perhaps not knowing the effects) or are coerced by immediate relations or other external perpetrators.

These hazardous and worst forms of child labour and economic violence have a damaging effect on the physical and psychological well-being of the child and violates the human rights of children. Subsequently, abolishing this violence across the globe should be the concern of every nation and institution. The effective abolition of child labour is an essential element of the International Labour Organization's goal of achieving decent work for all women and men (ILO, 2002). This abolishment is crucial to the survival of the world as it goes a long way to achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); thus eradicating child labour is particularly relevant to achieving MDG 1, MDG 2 and MDG 6 (UNICEF, 2006). It is important to note that child labour and economic violence is murderous and no country in the world is totally immune from this menace; neither are we free from its economic, social and health implications. Thus, legislation against child labour should receive continuous strengthening and implementation.

'Trafficking in Persons', a study conducted in the United States of America in 2006 makes the effect of child labour quite frightening and devastating as follows:

Human trafficking has a devastating impact on individual victims, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, document theft, and even death. But the impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the health, safety and security of all nations (Miko, 2006).

In summing up, all these forms of violence, their nature, and their effect on victims and perhaps the society they live in are very devastating as they range from the undermining of human development goals, negative health consequences and denial of fundamental human rights among many others (Innocenti Digest and UNICEF, 2000).

## **2.6 Causes/Factors that Encourage Violence against Children**

It is quite difficult to assign a single factor or risk of factors to violence against children. Most of the violence come in different forms (for example, physical or economic), occurs at different settings (schools or homes) and can be committed by different perpetrators for different reasons. Due to the complex nature and characteristics of violence against children, its causative factors can emanate from many roots such as social, cultural, economic and political. For example, Dahlberg (1998) explained that risk factors of youth violence in the US can be categorised under individual factors; family factors; peer or school factors; and environmental or neighbourhood factors. Most of the discussions on causes of violence against children can fall under any one of the above categories.

### **2.6.1 Poverty**

One of the contributing factors of violence against children is poverty. Poverty still remains one of the key causes of violence against children especially in developing economies like Ghana. A study by UNICEF (2008) in Swaziland indicates that many victims of violence depended on their perpetrators for economic survival. These perpetrators, who are usually part of the victims' family, use their roles as breadwinners to cause harm on unsuspecting victims. In most instances, poverty is seen as a double edged sword as it is both a cause and consequence of violence against children (WHO, 2004). Thus, child labour (economic violence) and poverty co-exist mutually in most developing countries due to the vicious cycle of poverty (Basu & Van, 1998). Further, Nafziger and Auvinen (2002) stated that contemporary crisis such as state violence, are sometimes due to income inequality, declining income and low GDP especially in developing nations.

### **2.6.2 Socio-cultural Factors**

Apart from poverty being the cause, certain norms and policies mostly through lack of punitive measures or policies that are biased towards children tend to encourage violence against children. The World Health Organisation (2009) explained that certain socio-cultural factors in some societies could encourage or influence violence against children. In other cases and cultural settings around the world, some forms of violence (especially sexual violence) are regarded as very sensitive issues. In effect, incidents of them usually go unreported or unpunished (Watts & Zimmerman, 2002). Certainty, once it goes unreported or unpunished, there is nothing to serve as a deterrent to suspecting perpetrators. Again, some cultures and gender-biased activists regard men as being powerful and dominant and women as deserving violence, such as sexual violence (Murnen et al., 2002). With such a mind-set, it easy for people to perpetrate violence without any arrest or punishment.

### **2.6.3 Reactive and Proactive Aggression**

From a psychological perspective and emotions specifically, Brendgen et al. (2001) examined how reactive and proactive aggression of children could results in violence. In the study, children were used as perpetrators of violence against their peers. Results of the study indicate that proactive aggression caused delinquency-related violence, whereas reactive aggression determined later dating violence. Thus, the kind of emotions in terms of aggressiveness could significantly cause some form of violence.

#### **2.6.4 Personal Experience and Demographic Characteristics**

Interpersonal and background factors as well as some demographical characteristics could also predict the extent and form of child violence. People who have been victims of child violence are more likely to be prospective perpetrators of violence. The characteristics and disposition of some victims also account for the occurrence of some violence. For example, Schissel (2000) reports that men who are depressed are more likely to be violent to women when it comes to relationship violence. In a related study of dating violence among college students, Mahlstedt and Welsh (2005) found that some physical and demographic characteristics of a person are likely to lead to that person suffering from dating violence, specifically physical assaults.

In summary, the causes of violence (whether sexual, physical or psychological) are usually situation and context specific rather than generic. Accordingly, Seedat et al. (2009) cited many causes of violence in South Africa that touch on the various contexts and situations and are quite overarching: ‘widespread poverty, unemployment, and income inequality; patriarchal notions of masculinity that valorise toughness, risk-taking, and defence of honour; exposure to abuse in childhood and weak parenting; access to firearms; widespread alcohol misuse; and weaknesses in the mechanisms of law enforcement’. Due to cultural and context variations, this study expected to find causes of child violence that could be different from what has been documented in existing literature.

### **2.7 Effects of Child Violence on Victims**

The effects of child violence is multi-dimensional (just as child violence comes in many forms and dimensions), ranging from minor injuries like bruises or some form of depression to larger effects like contracting serious diseases and death. These effects could be direct or indirect as they could have an impact on victims, close associates of victims, and society or country of occurrence. In addition, the effects of child violence can vary depending on contextual specifics and physical characteristics like age, victim’s physical appearance and background (Fantuzzo & Mohr, 1999). This study seeks only to discuss the direct effect of child violence on victims whom the acts have been perpetrated against.

#### **2.7.1 Health Risks**

Felitti et al. (1998) in their study of child exposure (violence) in the US explained the health implications of these child exposures to include: increased health risks for alcoholism; drug abuse; depression; and attempted suicide. They further explained that as victims grow to become adult, these effects could graduate into serious health conditions like cancer, liver and lung diseases among others. In effect, children who have been exposed to violence have a high probability of having multiple health issues.



### **2.7.2 Anxiety, Substance Disorders and Depression**

A study by Molnar et al. (2001) examined child sexual violence and its subsequent health and psychological effects. They reported that children (both male and female) who suffer from child sexual abuse subsequently suffer from anxiety, substance disorders and depression. Accordingly, they conclude that child sexual abuse is related to a substantially increased risk of psychopathology. The effects are usually a mixture of physical and psychological. Relatedly, Fantuzzo and Mohr (1999) report aggressiveness, fear and anxiety, and social life and academic incompetence as some of devastating effects of child domestic violence.

### **2.7.3 Substance Abuse, and Sexual and Aggression Related Problems**

In a survey study of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), which include child abuse and witnessing domestic violence, Anda et al. (2006) found that substance abuse, memory loss, sexual and aggression related domains increased as the ACE score increased. Thus, the higher the ACE score, the higher the rates of these effects among the study participants. Although quite unrelated, Johnson and Leone (2005) explained in a study of intimate terrorism (relationship violence) that victims are more likely to be injured, stay out of work, and leave their shared homes and to resort to taking pain killers. Depending on the severity of the violence, the type of violence and the sometimes the settings, the effect of violence will differ from person to person.

## **2.8 Protective Mechanisms**

The severe effects of child violence calls for pragmatic and sustainable preventive mechanisms. Like the causes and effects of child violence, the development of preventive mechanisms should also be context, situational and time specific; including taking into consideration the type of violence and the perpetrators of the act. For example, Seedat et al. (2009) mentioned weakness in law enforcements as a cause of violence and injuries. By effect, preventive policies ought to focus on effective and strict law enforcement, all things being the same. Similarly, Dahlberg (1998) posits that identifying the causes of youth violence is a major first step towards the development of comprehensive preventive mechanisms. Barth (2009) for instance, acknowledges the major causes of violence to be parental related factors. He subsequently suggested parenting training and education on violence as the most effective mechanism.

Seedat et al. (2009) in their study of violence and injuries suggested a number of mechanisms that could be adopted in order to prevent the occurrence of violence:

Governments ought to show leadership and stewardship in developing effective strategies in the fight against violence;

Governments should encourage and work with civil societies in violence policies formulations;

Interventions should be targeted on contributory factors such as poverty, youth unemployment, gender and other social inequity, intergenerational cycling of violence, among other factors;

Initiatives to change issues related to the perceptions of male superiority and gender biased behaviours: this can be done by inculcating them into school's curriculum and some cultural values; and

New initiatives, policies and regulations such as engagement in action against unlicensed liquor outlets, those flouting regulations, and those operating near schools to reduce alcohol consumption.

As already explained, most of these mechanisms ought to be implemented with caution as their generalizability could be problematic. They are idiosyncratic to countries, communities and sub-cultures. Rosenberg and Knox (2005) in studying youth violence in the US emphasised the importance of not developing preventive mechanisms that are politically motivated or that do not have any evidence of success after implementation. They further suggested that such mechanisms should be scientific and evidence-based. Questions such as *what type of violence, where and when did it occur, who are the victims and perpetrators, what caused the violence* ought to be asked and determined when designing strategies and mechanisms for preventing violence.

Further, other studies have attempted to categorise the preventive mechanisms into levels according to the current state of the violence. A study by Limbos et al. (2007) on youth violence, categorized youth violence interventions according to the level of the intervention: 'Primary (implemented universally to prevent the onset of violence); Secondary (implemented selectively with youth at increased risk for violence); and Tertiary (focused on youth who had already engaged in violent behaviour)'. The effectiveness of each category of intervention for tackling youth violence increases as the intervention category graduate from primary to towards tertiary. Again, this findings show that the preventive mechanisms are not formulated and implemented generally without any considerations, but are done based on the level of the violence and the victims.

Many of the issues relating to preventive mechanisms and policies of child violence are not evidence based - at least as shown by previous studies. In effect, their implementation does not yield effective and successful results. Most of them are conducted without recourse to specifics, hence become myths rather than realities (Levenson & D'Amora, 2007). To help reduce this issue of counter-productive mechanisms, Levenson and D'Amora (2007) recommend mechanisms such as media engagement, using strategies that can differentiate high risk and low risk offenders, and efficient distribution of resources that deal with and restrict dangerous offenders of violence.

In summary, the ideal model of child violence preventive mechanisms should be one that has a multi-dimensional approach. Most importantly, the model should be aware of the sources of that particular violence, the characteristics of the perpetrators and victims, the nature (including severity of the violence) and the settings of the violence. With such a model, the preventive mechanisms will achieve their purpose and become more sustainable.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter highlights the research approach and design, data collection and measurement methods, and data analysis. The profile of the study area is also described.

### 3.1 The Study Setting

The study was conducted in selected towns in Kumasi Metropolis and Asokore Mampong Municipality in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. Kumasi was founded in the late nineteenth century by King Osei Tutu I (Fynn & Addo-Fening, 1991). The city is located in the south-central part of Ghana and serves as a link between the northern and the southern parts of the country. Kumasi is one of the fastest-growing commercial cities in Ghana with major trade route converging on it. In addition, it is noted for housing a large number of artisans and small-scale enterprises. It has an area of 238 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 2,035,064 (Ghana Statistical Service, 2010).

Asokore Mampong Municipality covers a total land area of 23.91 km<sup>2</sup> and it is located in the North-Eastern part of the Kumasi Metropolis. The Municipality shares boundaries with Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA) to the East, South and West, Kwabre East Municipality to the North-West and Ejisu-Juabeng Municipal Assembly to the South-East. Although small in land size, the Municipality has a population of 304,815 (Population and Housing Census, 2010) with 10 electoral areas, namely: Aboabo No.1; Aboabo No.2; Adukrom; Akurem; Asokore Mampong; Sawaba; Asawasi; New Zongo; Sepe-Tinpom; and Akwatialine Electoral Areas. The selection of the study sites were informed by the fact that Defence for Children International, Ghana (DCI-Ghana) which is undertaking the study selected these districts for a project to reduce violence against children with special focus on sexual exploitation and child sex tourism. As such, the study forms part of the basis for the interventions by DCI-Ghana, especially in the area of evidence-based advocacy so as to contribute to the international study on the subject matter by the Defence for Children International-End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (DCI-ECPAT) Netherlands.

### 3.2 Research Design and Approach

To fully achieve the study objectives, it is imperative to choose an appropriate research design. For this reason the study adopted descriptive research design. Since there have been past studies on the subject of child violence, a descriptive study was required in order to add additional

knowledge and empirical evidence to the already existing literature. Thus, a descriptive study helped the researchers describe what is happening (regarding child violence) in more details, through collecting as much data as possible. In effect, the study sought to expand and add to the already existing literature on child violence. Both descriptive and exploratory types of research design were adopted for this study. This research design is adoptable and flexible to changes depending on the nature of the data collected. In addition to the descriptive research design, the study also adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches in terms of data collection and analysis. The study employed both interviews and survey instruments like questionnaires depending on the category of respondents to collect the relevant quantitative data. The qualitative methods of data collection employed involved content analysis of documentation, and structured and semi-structured interviews among others. Quantitatively, the study administered survey questionnaires to solicit various responses from respondents. Having this triangulation approach (both interview and survey) helped to improve the validity of the responses and consequently the study results. It also afforded the study to describe and ascribe explanations to the findings from the data collected.

### **3.3 Population, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

The sample population for this research consisted of selected towns in the Kumasi Metropolis and Asokore Mampong Municipality. These towns and communities included: Asokore Mampong; Boubai; Kontompo; Adukrom; Nima-moke; Akwatia Line; Moshie Zongo; New Zongo; Asebi; Akorem; Sawaba; Sepe; Sokoban; Abrepo; Ahinsan; Tafo; Kaase; Suame Kotoko; Roman Hill; Fanti New Town; and Ashanti New Town. The inhabitants of these communities have varying characteristics in terms of religion and major trading activities or occupations. Specifically, the populace comprise Christians and Muslims, farmers and petty traders as well as ethnic and cultural backgrounds - making the communities and their inhabitants very heterogeneous. The population of the study consisted of all household heads and individuals who have witnessed or experienced violence against children; community leaders like chiefs, Imams, Pastors and Assembly or Unit leaders; and government agencies among others. There was a little difficulty knowing the exact population of these communities based on the description of the study participants given above. Accordingly, the study targeted a population of about one

thousand, six hundred (1600) comprising the categories of household heads, individual persons, opinion and community leaders, civil society organisations as well as government agencies and officials.

To get a sample out of the population, non-probability sampling techniques like judgemental sampling, convenience sampling and snowball sampling approach were used. The judgmental sampling technique was used to help solicit responses from particular individuals or stakeholders who really matter as far as those responses were concern. Specifically, the traditional rulers, other community leaders and government agencies like the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Police Service; the social welfare department of the District Assembly, the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly were all purposively interviewed because they are competent and relevant to the subject matter of the study (child violence) within the study area. The study also used the convenience sampling technique. This is a sampling technique usually used by researchers to select a sample that are easily within the reach of the researcher at a particular time for the purpose of collecting data (Bret & Bet, 2011). Thus, the convenience sampling approach was adopted and used for the study largely because of how scattered and difficult it was to reach some category of respondents - like the individual respondents. Lastly, some data were obtained through the snowball approach; some child victims of violence were referred to by some participants who have also suffered violence and/or witnessed violence. Some of these victims are in Child Right Club (CRC), associations (Abdul Sammed Islamic CRC, Sakafia Islamic CRC, Nasru Deen Islamic CRC, Kaase M/A Primary CRC, Ahinsan M/A Primary B CRC, St Cyprins Girls Club, Adukrom Presby Girls Club, Irshad Islamic CRC, St Anne's Anglican Girls Club, Sepe M/A JHS CRC, Moshie Zongo Young Women's Club and Kontompo Young Women Club) that deal with issues such as violence against children, hence were easily identified by their peers. Due to the varying characteristics of the different respondents as well as the sensitive nature of the issue of child violence, the study had to adopt many forms of sampling techniques in order to achieve valid results. In all, a sample of one thousand, three hundred and fifteen (1315) was selected comprising eight hundred and ninety six (896) individuals and four hundred and ten (410) household heads. In addition to these sample categories, the study also purposively selected nine (9) persons who fall within the category of community leaders and persons from relevant government agencies and department for interviews.

The study defined “household heads” as respondents who are “bread winners” of a household irrespective of age or gender where as “individuals” was referred to as respondents other than household heads who have either seen or experienced violence against children. The categorisation of the sample into two groups increased our chance of having most respondents who matter as far as the issue of violence against children is concerned. It must be noted that the number of questionnaires administered (1400 questionnaire) to respondents were in excess of the final sample size that was determined from the study population. At the end of the survey exercise, 1297 completed questionnaires were returned, giving us a response rate of 92.64%.

### **3.4 Data Collection and Measurement**

Data collected for the study was mainly primary and cross sectional in nature. In effect, first-hand information and/or data were collected from different groups and classification of respondents at one point in time. Primary data was advantageous for the study because it helped the researchers to collect information needed specifically for the study and directly from respondents who are connected to the study’s subject matter. Although time consuming and costly, the primary data was found to be the most appropriate for the purpose of this study. Data were collected through survey questionnaires and interviews. Specifically, household heads and other individuals responded to the survey questionnaires, while community leaders and government officials were interviewed. Again, the survey questionnaire covered three main themes of the study - the forms, the prevalence, and causes and effects of child violence; while the interview focused on the existence of protective systems and mechanisms of child violence. To help validate (or otherwise) the responses on these protective mechanisms, the study also had an interview with the “individual” category of the respondents to solicit their views on the existing protective mechanisms. The survey questionnaire consisted of both closed and open-ended questions. This helped moderate the differences between excessive responses and over restricted responses whenever necessary. It also provided data to augment the responses to fill in any gaps that might have emerged in the responses.

It is also worth noting that before the questionnaires were administered a preliminary study was done by piloting the questionnaire. In all, five respondents were sampled from each community for the purpose of the pilot study. The purpose of the pilot study was to test and amend or fine-

tune the survey instrument where necessary and to ensure that the items on the questionnaire are measuring what they are meant to measure.

### **3.5 Data Analysis and Process**

The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to evaluate and process the questionnaires. Coded variables were entered into the computer. The MS Excel was used as the entries made in the SPSS were copied into it to know the total responses for each variable. For easy analysis and conclusions, responses from household heads and individuals were presented as a whole. However, the study employed the triangulation approach to analyse the relationship between the characteristics of respondents and the type of violence used against children. This is a process where different methods of collecting data are used and agreements yielded by different methods are compared. It is an important way of verifying the accuracy of information. To triangulate the data, interview responses from household heads were compared to the “individual’ responses for areas of agreement and disagreements. Where inconsistencies arose, evidence were looked for that helped to determine the valid data. It also assisted in suggesting possible explanations for the observed discrepancies. Again, the level of agreement between the two response groups on linking a person’s physical disposition to a type of violence against children was given serious consideration to ensure reliability in the study findings. Percentages, Mean, Relative Importance Index (RII) and Frequencies were used to present the results. The analysis used both qualitative and quantitative methods, with more focus on the quantitative approach. This is because there is a lack of systematically gathered quantitative information on violence against children generally in Ghana and even in the global studies (Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group, 2014, p7). The qualitative approach has dominated in previous studies that have focused on a section of violence against children due to the illicit nature of the subject matter under study as respondents are sometimes not cooperative in providing answers (WAAF, 2003) therefore making it difficult to establish quantitatively the actual number of child victims of abuse. This remains a major obstacle to the accurate assessment of the magnitude of the problem across the country.

Furthermore, the qualitative approach allows for the study to do in-depth exploration of sensitive issues of violence against children. This gives the study a holistic approach by drawing responses from key stakeholders and experiences of victims of child abuse.



### **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

In order to ensure reliability and validity of the results as well as preserve the privacy of the respondents, certain ethical considerations informed the study's methodology including the data collection process. The questionnaire and interview guide were designed to align with the objectives of the study, intended use of the data and the possibility of future interventions to address identified needs and concerns. Moreover, since the primary targets were children, there were very salient ethical issues involved in dealing with them especially in relation to the sensitive and human nature of the study. All respondents had to give their consent to be interviewed. Consent was sought from the parents or guardians of all children less than 18 years who were interviewed. Consent was also sought from respondents above 18 years of age before they were interviewed. The purpose of the study was explained to respondents for their full understanding before they decided to participate in the study or otherwise. A participant was only interviewed following an agreement. The identity of all respondents during the data collection and in the final report has been kept confidential. Since the questionnaire was designed in the English language, the researchers read and translated the questionnaire and interview guide into indigenous languages to those who could not read and/or write in English.

A formal interviewing approach was adopted in our interactions with stakeholders, namely, traditional leaders, the Social Services Department, the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service and the Social Services Unit of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly. Appointments were booked with the stakeholders before the interview took place. This was to allow stakeholders to appropriately answer the interview questions at their convenience. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject under study, all the interviews began with general ice breaking issues that put respondents at ease and set the tone for further discussions on the issue. The lead researcher conducted the interviews while co-researchers took notes. After the interview, all responses taken by different researchers were consolidated to have a single response for each category of questions asked.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 4.0 Introduction

The results and analysis of the data is presented in this chapter; some statistical representation, the findings of the study in the form of frequency tables and others are interpreted.

### 4.1 Demographic Characteristic of Respondents

The various demographic characteristics of respondents of the study are reported in this section of the study. The characteristics include location, gender, age, level of education and religion.

**Table 4.1: Level of Responses from Each Location of the Study**

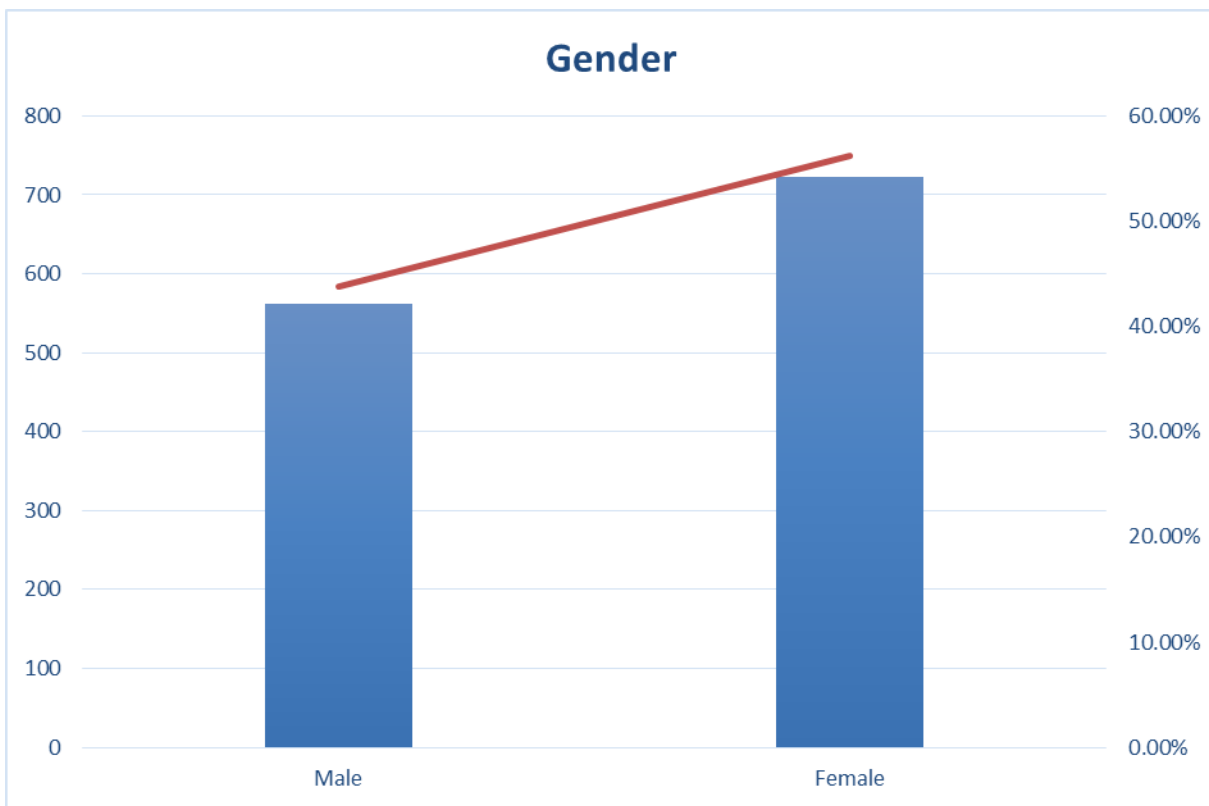
| Demographic characteristics |           |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Study Location              | Frequency | Percentage |
| • Kaase                     | 126       | 9.71%      |
| • Suame                     | 61        | 4.70%      |
| • Ashtown                   | 73        | 5.63%      |
| • Sepe                      | 60        | 4.63%      |
| • Kontompo                  | 13        | 1.00%      |
| • Tafo                      | 115       | 8.87%      |
| • Akwatia line              | 63        | 4.86%      |
| • Sewaba                    | 86        | 6.63%      |
| • Adukrom                   | 85        | 6.55%      |
| • Akurem                    | 82        | 6.32%      |
| • Fante New Town            | 57        | 4.39%      |
| • Ahinsan                   | 108       | 8.33%      |
| • Asibi                     | 75        | 5.78%      |
| • Asokore Mampong           | 70        | 5.40%      |
| • Buobai                    | 68        | 5.24%      |
| • Abrepo                    | 58        | 4.47%      |
| • Roman Hill                | 51        | 3.93%      |
| • Sokoban                   | 46        | 3.55%      |
| • Total                     | 1297      | 100%       |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

From Table 4.1 above, the communities used in the study includes Kaase, Suame, Ashtown, Sepe, Kontompo, Tafo, Akwatia Line, Sewaba, Adukrom, Akurem, Fante New Town, Ahinsan, Asibi, Asokore Mampong, Buobai, Abrepo, Roman Hill and Sokoban. The result as indicated shows that Kaase and Tafo represents the majority of the respondents followed by Ahinsan and Sewaba. Kontompo had the least representation of respondents.

### 4.1.1 Gender of Respondents

Figure 4.1: Gender of Respondents

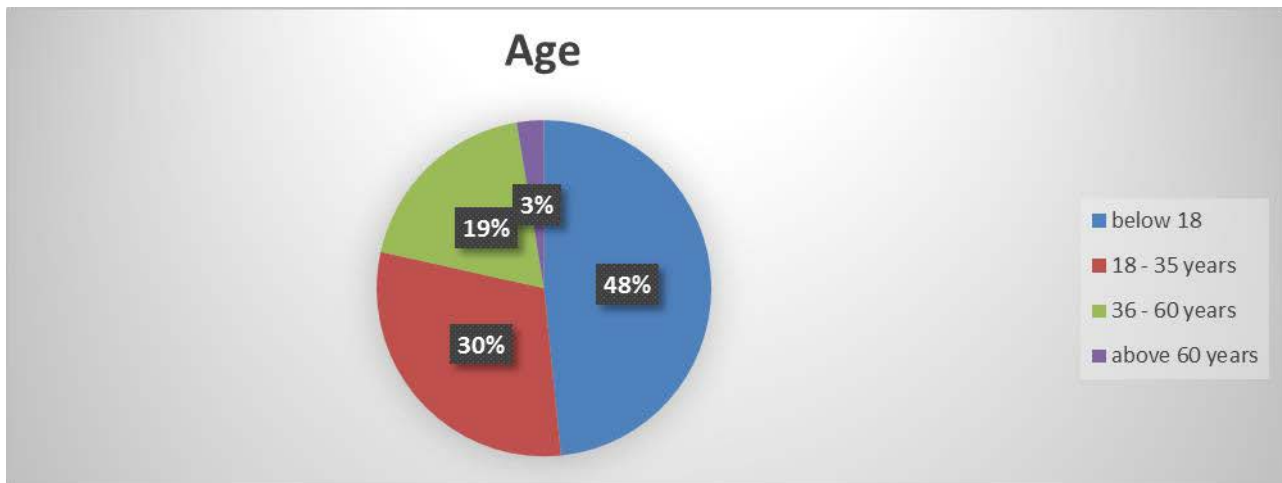


Source: Field Data (2014)

The figure above indicates that the most dominant gender representation is female. 43.74% of the total respondents were males and 56.26% of the respondents were females.

### 4.1.2 Age of Respondents

Figure 4.2: Age of Respondents

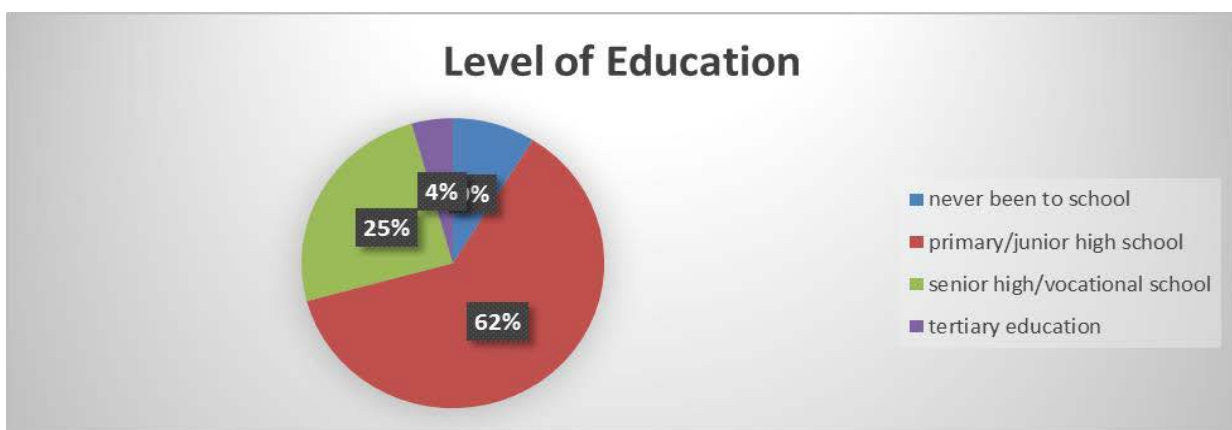


Source: Field Data (2014).

Age was one of the demographic characteristics examined. The result reports that 48% of study participants are below the age of eighteen (18); 30% are between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty five (35); 19% are between the ages of thirty six (36) and sixty (60); and 3% of the respondents are above sixty (60) years. The results depict dominance of children (study participants below eighteen years) among the various age categories. It is important to note that, although the study was on child violence, the views of parents, family and community leaders were sought in order to give the study sound results and meaning.

### 4.1.3 Level of Education

Figure 4.3: Level of Education

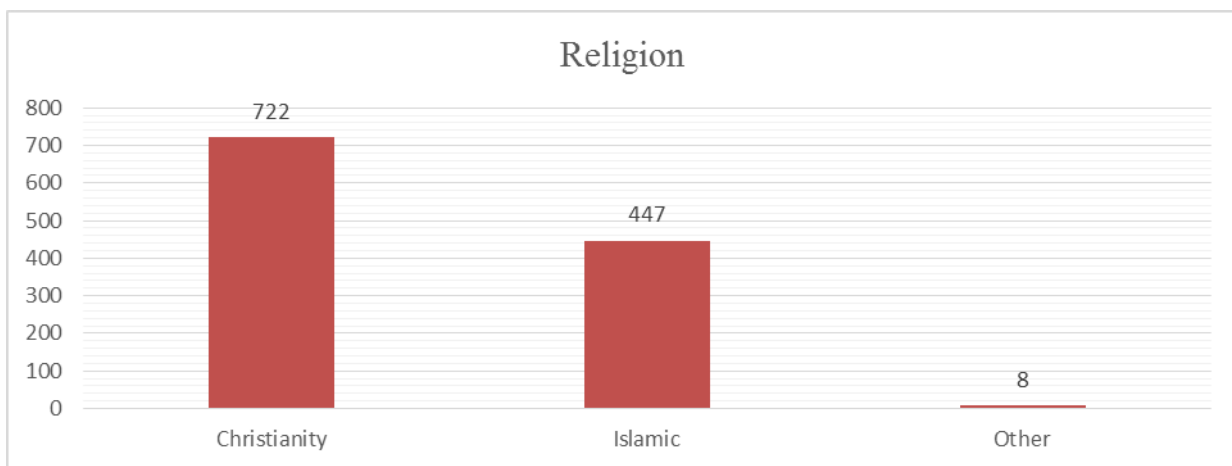


Source: Field Data (2014).

Figure 4.3 above shows the educational attainment of respondents with the majority (62%) of the respondents having primary/junior high school education. 25% of the study participants have had senior high/vocational school; 4% have had tertiary education; and 9% of the respondents have had no formal training or education. This data also compares to the age range of under 18 as major respondents since most persons within this age group falls within the primary and junior high school going age.

#### 4.1.4: Religious Affiliation of Respondents

Figure 4.4: Religious Affiliation of Respondents

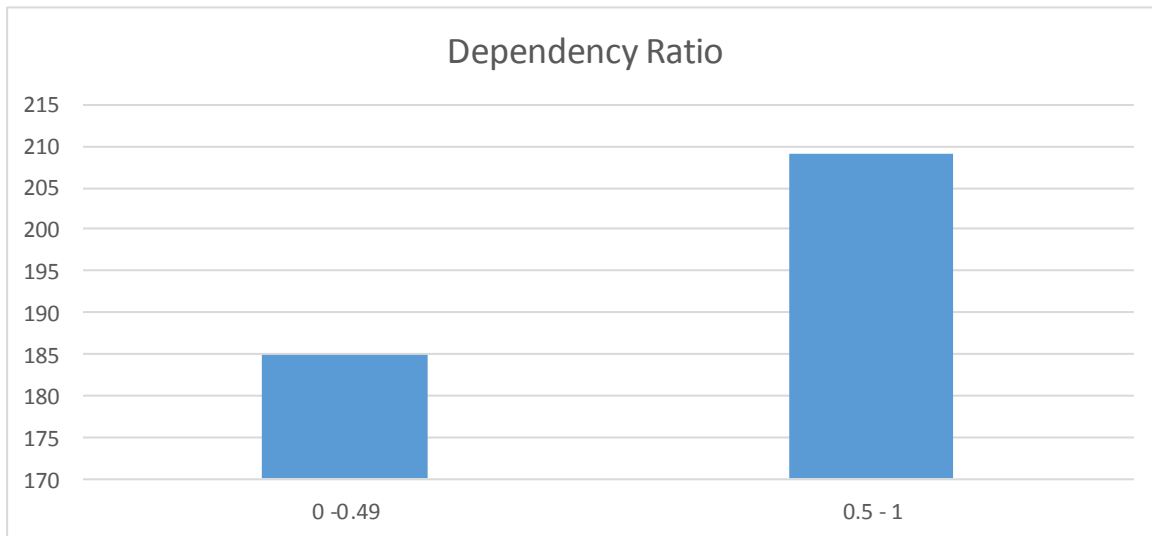


Source: Field Data (2014).

Lastly, the study assessed the religious background of the respondents. The result shows that the majority of the respondents were Christians. Specifically, 722 of the respondents constituting 61.34% of the respondents were Christians whereas 447 respondents constituting 37.98% of the respondents were Muslims. Traditionalists, pagans and other religions were 8 and constitute 0.68% of the respondents. This section of respondents were categorized as “other” as shown in figure 4.4 above.

Another demographic variable the study sought to measure was the economic status or poverty levels of the households in the sample of study. The researchers used a measure of dependency ration of each household to proxy for the poverty level of the household of the respondents. The dependency ratio which is measured as the ratio of persons below 15 years and 65 years and above to the ratio of total household size (Bigsten et al., 2002) has been used as a high correlation or proxy measure of a country’s or community’s level of poverty (Bigsten et al., 2002; Vijayakumar, 2013). Accordingly, the researchers infer that households that have a high dependency ratio (the ratio ranges from 0.0-1.0) will have comparatively high levels of poverty.

**Figure 4.5: Dependency Ratio of Households**



**Source: Field Data (2014)**

From Figure 4.5 above it is clear that most of the households are in the high dependency ratio category. For the purpose of the study, we classified the respondents into two levels of dependency ratio - those within the range of 0.0-0.49 as low and those within 0.5-1.0 as high dependency ratio. By reasoning, households who fall within the section of high dependency ratio are likely to be experiencing relatively high levels of poverty.

The researchers found it relevant to include all the above demographics including economic status characteristics because previous studies (Jones et al., 2012) have shown that some of these characteristics could be antecedents or causes of one form of child violence or other. As will be shown in later sections of the study, these demographic characteristics relate to the occurrence of some types and/or forms of child violence.

## 4.2 Forms of Violence

**Table 4.2: Forms of Violence: and Witnessing or Experiencing Violence**

| Forms of Violence                      | Experienced | Seen       | seen and experienced | Total sample |
|--|-------------|------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <b>Forms of Physical Violence</b>      |             |            |                      |              |
| Bullying                               | 96(8.9%)    | 369(34.1%) | 616(57.0%)           | 1081         |
| Beating                                | 128(10.5%)  | 225(18.5)  | 861(71.0%)           | 1214         |
| Caning                                 | 135(10.8%)  | 196(15.6%) | 923(73.6)            | 1254         |
| Forced injection                       | 49(5.3%)    | 406(44.1%) | 466(50.6%)           | 921          |
| <b>Forms of Sexual Violence</b>        |             |            |                      |              |
| Defilement                             | 31(4.4%)    | 548(77.7)  | 126(17.9%)           | 705          |
| Rape                                   | 20(3.2%)    | 557(88.8%) | 50(8.0%)             | 627          |
| Indecent assault                       | 71(7.7%)    | 486(52.5%) | 369(39.8%)           | 926          |
| Incest                                 | 7(1.6%)     | 399(93.0)  | 23(5.4%)             | 429          |
| Compulsion of marriage                 | 32(3.9%)    | 693(84.4%) | 96(11.7%)            | 821          |
| Abduction                              | 60(7.4%)    | 602(74.1%) | 150(18.5%)           | 812          |
| <b>Forms of Psychological Violence</b> |             |            |                      |              |
| Teasing                                | 119(9.7%)   | 178(14.5%) | 927(75.8%)           | 1224         |
| Humiliation                            | 104(9.7%)   | 354(32.7%) | 624(57.6%)           | 1082         |
| Neglect                                | 75(8.6%)    | 518(59.6%) | 276(31.8%)           | 869          |
| Insult                                 | 121(9.5%)   | 144(11.3)  | 1009(79.2%)          | 1274         |
| <b>Forms of Economic Violence</b>      |             |            |                      |              |
| Child labour                           | 46(4.0%)    | 765(66.2)  | 344(29.8)            | 1155         |
| Child trafficking                      | 30(4.0%)    | 633(84.5%) | 86(11.5%)            | 749          |
| Sexual exploitation                    | 27(4.3%)    | 477(77.6%) | 111(18.1)            | 615          |
| Slavery                                | 12(2.2%)    | 417(79.0%) | 99(18.8%)            | 528          |

**Source: Field Data (2014).**

The table above shows the various forms of violence seen or experienced by individuals. The respondents were categorized into whether he/she has ever seen or witnessed, or seen and witnessed a particular type of violence. The first category of violence examined was physical violence. Bullying, beating, caning and forced were the main types of physical violence. Physical violence has been explained by previous studies (Innocenti Digest and UNICEF, 2000; Chitashvili et al., 2010) based on some of these classification; hence we found it necessary to measure physical violence using this multi-construct dimension. The majority of respondents have seen and experienced bullying. Thus, 616 (57.0%) of the respondents have seen and experienced bullying in their life-time; 369 (34.1%) have only seen someone bullied and 96(8.9%) have only experienced physical violence.

Again, the majority of the respondents have seen and experienced beating as a form of physical violence. 861 respondents making 71.0% of the total respondents have seen and experienced beating. 225 (18.5%) of the respondents have only seen someone being beaten before and 128(10.5%) of the respondents have only experienced beating themselves. Unsurprisingly, a whooping number of the respondents have seen and experienced being caned. This could be as a result of the encouragement of Ghanaian culture on the use of the cane to discipline a child. Finally, the study examined force injection as a form of physical violence. The result indicates a dominance of individuals who have seen and experienced forced injection. Specifically, 466 (50.6%) have seen and experienced force injection, 406(44.1%) have only seen/witnessed force injection and 49(5.3%) have experienced force injection themselves. Comparatively, the majority of the respondents have seen and experienced physical violence relative to those who have only seen or experienced physical violence.

Sexual violence was the next form of violence against children examined. The main forms of sexual violence identified were defilement, rape, indecent assault and incest. Again, measuring sexual violence holistically requires these individual forms of violence. Respondents who have only seen defilement dominated among the other forms, representing 548 (77.7%) followed by 126 (17.9%) of individuals who have seen and experienced defilement. Rape was also identified to be common among those who have only seen but have never experienced it themselves. Similarly, indecent assault, incest, compulsion of marriage and abduction were more common among those who have seen but have never experienced it. In all, the majority of respondents have witnessed sexual violence either in the form of defilement, rape, indecent assault, incest, compulsion of marriage or abduction.

The research further sought to assess various ways individuals are exposed to psychological violence. Teasing, humiliation, neglect and insult were the various forms of psychological violence investigated. The result shows that the majority of the respondents have witnessed and experienced violence except 'neglect' which the majority of respondents have only witnessed/seen. Similarly with sexual and physical violence, the researchers conceptualised and measured psychological violence using the many constructs above.

The last form of violence assessed is economic violence. The various forms of economic violence are child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery. The majority of the respondents have witnessed/seen various forms of child economic violence. Thus, 46 (4.0%) have experienced child labour; 765 (67.1%) have witnessed child labour; whilst 344 (29.8%) have seen and experienced child labour in their lifetime. With regards to child trafficking, 633 respondents making a majority of 84.5% of the respondents have witnessed child trafficking as a form of economic violence. Similarly, the majority of the respondents have witnessed sexual exploitation and slavery as forms of economic violence.

In all, the dynamics of whether a person has seen, experienced or seen and experienced depends on the form of violence against children. For example, a look at the analysis indicates that more



individuals are involved in physical, psychological and sexual violence with economic violence being the least experienced or witnessed.

### 4.3 Prevalence Rate of Violence

This section reports data on the prevalent rate of the various types and forms of violence against children as responded by the study participants.

#### 4.3.1 Prevalence Rate of Physical Violence

**Table 4.3a: Prevalence Rate of Physical Violence**

| Variable         | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | weighted mean | RII  |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| Bullying         | 397    | 382    | 346    | 111    | 1236 | 2.86          | 0.72 |
| Beating          | 793    | 302    | 132    | 25     | 1252 | 3.49          | 0.87 |
| Caning           | 334    | 380    | 224    | 70     | 1008 | 3.19          | 0.80 |
| Forced injection | 135    | 194    | 299    | 565    | 1193 | 1.92          | 0.48 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

Table 4.3a above indicates the prevalence rate of the various forms of physical violence. The result shows that the most prevalence form of physical violence is beating. This is reflected in the highest relative importance index (RII) of 0.87. Caning is ranked as the second most prevalent form of physical violent. The least ranked form of physical violence is forced injection.

The high response rate to most of these forms of violence by respondents can be explained culturally. In most Ghanaian homes and communities, forms of physical violence such as caning, beating and forced injection are seen as a form of discipline when a child is involved in wrong doing. Thus, most forms of physical violence are seen as a deterrent measure rather than an act of violence being perpetrated against the child. These findings on physical violence is however not peculiar to Ghana but quite common to most African countries and culture. For example, a study conducted by ACPF in 2010 on physical violence against girls in some selected African countries found that beating and hitting were the most reported forms of physical violence in almost all the countries (Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal). By implication, it becomes problematic to reduce or stop physical violence and some of its associated forms since it has a cultural interpretation by it perpetrators. In Ghana, this situation is also condoned by the legal and policy frameworks such as the Children Act 560 (1998) which allows for a degree of ‘reasonable’ and ‘justifiable’ punishment (Advanced Unedited Version, Concluding Observations on the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Ghana, by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, June 2015); and the Ghana Education Code of Discipline for second-cycle schools also provides for corporal punishment, with a head teacher of a school being the person to give authorization or administer it (Consideration of Ghana’s Consolidated third to fifth periodic reports of State parties to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, August 2014, pp27 – 28).

### 4.3.2 Prevalence of Sexual Violence

**Table 4.3b: Prevalence of Sexual Violence**

| Variable               | Rank*<br>6 | Rank*<br>5 | Rank*<br>4 | Rank*<br>3 | Rank*<br>2 | Rank*<br>1 | N    | Weighted<br>mean | RII  |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|------------------|------|
| Defilement             | 330        | 335        | 226        | 157        | 65         | 39         | 1152 | 4.51             | 0.75 |
| Rape                   | 375        | 227        | 189        | 185        | 42         | 46         | 1064 | 4.54             | 0.76 |
| Indecent assault       | 462        | 247        | 228        | 129        | 101        | 31         | 1198 | 4.62             | 0.77 |
| Incest                 | 97         | 98         | 175        | 280        | 246        | 212        | 1108 | 2.99             | 0.50 |
| Compulsion of marriage | 322        | 256        | 193        | 183        | 160        | 53         | 1167 | 4.20             | 0.70 |
| Abduction              | 146        | 230        | 172        | 195        | 141        | 231        | 1115 | 3.42             | 0.60 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The result above indicates the prevalence rate of sexual violence. The result shows that indecent assault is the most common form of sexual violence followed by rape among the population studied. This is depicted in the relative importance index of 0.77 and 0.76 for indecent assault and rape respectively. The next most common form of sexual violence is defilement. However, incest was ranked as the least prevalent form of sexual violence. Sexual violence has been one of the major forms of violence against children all over the world (Pineiro, 2006; Plan International-Brazil, 2011). It is therefore not surprising that the researchers found high rates of report on sexual violence among respondents. The many forms of sexual violence such as rape, defilement, watching pornographic materials and indecent assault have been used in explaining sexual violence and its components (Krug et al., 2002). The study however did not find evidence on other forms of sexual violence like watching pornographic movies and materials and being looked at in a sexual way as has been the case in other studies. In the case of pornographic materials, access to it in most less developed and rural communities such as those in this study is limited; hence, the study focused on other forms like rape and defilement that are more common and easier to indulge in.

### 4.3.3 Prevalence Rate of Psychological Violence

**Table 4.3c: Prevalence Rate of Psychological Violence**

| Variable    | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII  |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| Teasing     | 724    | 342    | 110    | 73     | 1249 | 3.38          | 0.84 |
| Humiliation | 291    | 385    | 430    | 134    | 1240 | 2.67          | 0.67 |
| Neglect     | 208    | 234    | 334    | 433    | 1209 | 2.18          | 0.55 |
| Insult      | 773    | 278    | 109    | 107    | 1267 | 3.36          | 0.84 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The table above indicates the prevalence rate of psychological violence. The study used teasing, humiliation, neglect and insult to represent psychological violence. The study found insult and teasing to be the most prevalent forms of psychological violence. Neglect was found to be the least common form of psychological violence. These various forms of psychological violence are usually used by most studies to explain psychological violence (Violence against children in Georgia, 2013). The extent of agreement on the forms of psychological violence by respondents in effect, is recognition of existence of psychological violence and working towards its eradication must be earnestly pursued. The ranking of insults and teasing as most prevalent by the respondents could have some cultural antecedents. Thus, like other forms of physical violence, insults are seen in most Ghanaian communities as a way of ‘correcting’ a child who goes wayward. In effect, much attention has not been given to prevent and address these forms of violence.

### 4.3.4 Prevalence Rate of Economic Violence

**Table 4.3d: Prevalence Rate of Economic Violence**

| Variable            | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII  |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| Child labour        | 889    | 222    | 67     | 53     | 1231 | 3.58          | 0.90 |
| Child trafficking   | 251    | 455    | 294    | 134    | 1134 | 2.73          | 0.68 |
| Sexual exploitation | 242    | 311    | 416    | 191    | 1160 | 2.52          | 0.63 |
| Slavery             | 171    | 195    | 203    | 501    | 1070 | 2.03          | 0.51 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The table above shows the prevalence rate of economic violence. The study found child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and slavery as the main forms of violence. Inferring from the relative importance index, child labour was ranked as the most prevalent form of economic violence followed by child trafficking and sexual exploitation respectively. The study also asked the respondents to respond to the frequency of occurrence of the various forms of economic violence. Child labour and child trafficking was the most prevalent form of economic violence

followed by sexual exploitation and slavery in that order. Economic violence in the form of child labour and child trafficking is usually common in most third world countries where there are high levels of poverty. For example, Diallo et al. (2013) argues that about 85 million children in the world are involved in one form of child labour or the other. However, children in Sub-Saharan Africa are the worst victims of these forms of economic violence as one out of every five children has suffered a form of economic violence. In a typical Ghanaian community where these forms of violence are seen as a way of providing a means-end to families, it is not surprising that this study records such rates of economic violence against children and that household heads that have experienced or witnessed this act before.

#### 4.4 Causes of Violence against Children

This section examined the causes of violence against children. The various causes of violence against children identified were classified into family related factors and socio-cultural factors. The findings are presented as below.

##### 4.4.1 Family Related Factors

**Table 4.4a: Family Related Causes of Violence against Children**

| Variable  | Strongly agree | Agree      | Not sure   | Disagree   | Strongly disagree |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Parent or Guardian has suffered violence before | 209 (16.3%)    | 289(22.5%) | 367(28.6%) | 276(21.5%) | 144(11.1%)        |
| Child lives with single parent or broken home   | 507(39.5%)     | 471(36.7%) | 155(12.1%) | 91(7.1%)   | 59(4.6%)          |
| Low level of parental education                 | 365(28.3%)     | 455(35.3)  | 223(17.3%) | 139(10.8%) | 107(8.3%)         |
| Lack of/inadequate income                       | 550(42.7%)     | 464(36.1)  | 116(9.0%)  | 83(6.4%)   | 74(5.8)           |
| Young and poor families                         | 269(30.4%)     | 346(39.1%) | 153(17.3)  | 69(7.8%)   | 49(5.4%)          |
| Overcrowded household                           | 390(30.1)      | 473(36.5)  | 202(15.6)  | 143(11.05) | 88(6.8)           |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The table above shows the various family related causes of violence against children. 209 (16.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 289 (22.5%) also agree that a child suffers violence if a parent or guardian has a history of having been abused. Also the majority of the respondents, thus 507(39.5%) strongly agree and 471(36.7%) of the respondents agree that single parenting leads to child abuse. Again, low level of parental education and low income levels or poverty were also identified as causes of violence against children as respondents strongly agreed or agreed to these variables as causes of child abuse. Violence against children can be caused by a range of factors including cultural and family related causes.

#### 4.4.2 Societal Factors that Lead to Violence against Child

**Table 4.4b: Societal Factors that Lead to Child Violence**

| Variable   | Strongly agree | Agree      | Not sure   | Disagree   | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Sexual actions such as incest are considered normal in the society | 162(12.5%)     | 141(10.9%) | 188(14.5%) | 346(26.7%) | 459(35.4%)        |
| Children who suffer violence are stigmatized                       | 355(27.4%)     | 413(31.9%) | 233(18.0%) | 186(14.4%) | 108(8.3%)         |
| Child marriage is accepted norm                                    | 216(16.6%)     | 298(22.9%) | 217(16.7%) | 326(25.1%) | 242(18.7%)        |
| Girls/women are seen as inferior in the society                    | 226(17.45)     | 244(18.8%) | 251(19.4%) | 345(26.6%) | 230(17.7%)        |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

This section deals with socio-cultural factors that cause violence against children. The study found that sexual actions such as incest being considered normal can contribute to and encourage the act of violence against children. Stigmatization of children who suffer violence leads to further violence against children. Specifically, the majority of the respondents 355(27.4%) and 413(31.9%) agree that a child suffers further violence if stigmatized after having suffered violence.

The causes of child violence is categorised into two main cause - family related causes and socio cultural causes (UN General Secretary's report on violence against children, 2006). From the analysis above, respondents agreed to some family factors and socio-cultural factors as being the most causal factors of child violence. It is important to note that these factors are contextual with respect to the kind of violence, the setting and the cultural background of the perpetrator and the victim than being generic. While most of the family-related causes (such as violent parents and poverty) are common across the globe, social cultural causes (such as stigmatisation) are usually common within the jurisdiction of certain third world countries. For example, low levels of income and poverty were seen as the most dominant family-related cause of violence in Swaziland (UNICEF, 2008).

## 4.5 Effects of Violence against Children

### 4.5.1 Effects of Physical Violence against Children

**Table 4.5a: Effects of Physical Violence against Children**

| Variables  | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII  |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| Injury     | 803    | 300    | 130    | 55     | 1288 | 3.44          | 0.86 |
| Deformity  | 277    | 351    | 466    | 161    | 1255 | 2.59          | 0.65 |
| Ill health | 436    | 443    | 282    | 125    | 1286 | 3.27          | 0.82 |
| Death      | 161    | 140    | 257    | 647    | 1205 | 1.98          | 0.50 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

This section examines the effects of physical violence against children. The main effects found are injury to the child, deformity, ill health and death. Injury to the child was found to be the main effect of physical violence. This is shown in the highest weighted mean of 3.44 and RII of 0.86. The second most significant effect of violence against children is ill health. This is reflected in the second highest mean of 3.27 and RII of 0.82. Again, there was consensus with regards to the impact and the severity of the impact of physical violence on the victims. The study only sought to find out the impact of child violence on the victims themselves and not any other entity or individual. From the reports of the researchers and the research assistants during the survey, most of these effects on the victims are so severe that they caused life threatening damage, and at times death. In Ghana where most of these cases go unreported and the severe injuries and health concerns are not treated this can lead to death.

*The wounds in my leg is due to the beatings I suffered from my mother a few weeks ago – reported by a class four girl at Asem Primary School*

*A 10 year old pupil at Nuriya Islamic School who was lacerated with a sharp blade by his grandfather from the ankle to his buttocks to deter the boy from returning home late from school had to drop out from school for a whole term for the wound to heal before returning to school– reported by a field worker at DCI-Ghana*

*A two and half-year child who has been experiencing frequent beating by the mother once sat on a hot coalpot whiles being beaten by the mother and got the buttocks burnt as a result – reported by a field worker at the socio-legal centre of DCI-Ghana.*

#### 4.5.2 Effects of Sexual Violence against Children

**Table 5b: Effects of Sexual Violence against Children**

| Variables                    | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII  |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| HIV/AIDS/STI infection       | 345    | 312    | 225    | 339    | 1221 | 2.54          | 0.64 |
| Trust issues                 | 274    | 378    | 396    | 231    | 1279 | 2.54          | 0.64 |
| Unwanted/unplanned pregnancy | 739    | 268    | 174    | 97     | 1278 | 3.29          | 0.82 |
| Trauma                       | 300    | 426    | 315    | 232    | 1273 | 2.62          | 0.66 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The table above indicates the effects of sexual violence. The result indicates unwanted or unplanned pregnancy as the main effect of sexual violence. Thus, most sexual abuses which have some element of sexual intercourse have the potency of causing unwanted pregnancy. The emotional and psychological trauma to sexually abused victims was ranked as the second most severe and common effect of sexual violence. STI infections and sexually abused victims having trust issues were also identified as some of the effects of sexual violence. These are the effects of most forms of sexual violence like rape and defilement on the victims. Common among them is HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Like the effects of physical violence, most of these effects were evident during the survey exercise as most of the victims spoken to exhibited signs of these effects.

#### 4.5.3 Effects of Psychological Violence against Children

**Table 4.5c: Effects of Psychological Violence against Children**

| Variables                 | Rank*5 | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|-----|
| Drug and substance abuse  | 411    | 265    | 223    | 221    | 164    | 1284 | 3.42          | 0.6 |
| Thought of suicide        | 187    | 237    | 285    | 303    | 254    | 1266 | 2.84          | 0.5 |
| Poor academic performance | 666    | 269    | 176    | 121    | 57     | 1289 | 4.06          | 0.8 |
| Trauma                    | 382    | 375    | 252    | 201    | 69     | 1279 | 3.63          | 0.7 |
| Trust issues              | 194    | 312    | 338    | 214    | 231    | 1289 | 3.02          | 0.6 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The table above shows the effects of psychological violence. The result indicates poor academic performance as the main effect of psychological violence followed by psychological trauma. Trust issues, thought of suicide and drug and substance abuse were also identified as some of the effects of psychological violence. Moreover, it is important to know that there are some other

forms of psychological violence such as mental torture and emotional problems which were not captured by the study. Such forms are quite difficult to quantitatively capture and measure (Innocenti Digest and UNICEF, 2000). Nonetheless, these other forms reported are quite severe and well pronounced on the affected victims and communities.

#### 4.5.4 Effects of Economic Violence against Children

**Table 4.5d: Effects of Economic Violence against Children**

| Variables               | Rank*6 | Rank*5 | Rank*4 | Rank*3 | Rank*2 | Rank*1 | N    | Weighted mean | RII  |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|---------------|------|
| Hunger                  | 3      | 257    | 158    | 145    | 199    | 503    | 1265 | 2.59          | 0.43 |
| Trauma                  | 2      | 165    | 266    | 321    | 283    | 221    | 1258 | 2.83          | 0.48 |
| Sexual exploitation     | -      | 124    | 158    | 326    | 247    | 242    | 1097 | 2.70          | 0.45 |
| HIV/AIDS/STI infections | 4      | 276    | 217    | 212    | 220    | 193    | 1122 | 3.20          | 0.53 |
| Denial of education     | -      | 169    | 186    | 212    | 309    | 282    | 1158 | 2.70          | 0.45 |
| Family separation       | 2      | 186    | 228    | 189    | 236    | 265    | 1106 | 2.86          | 0.48 |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

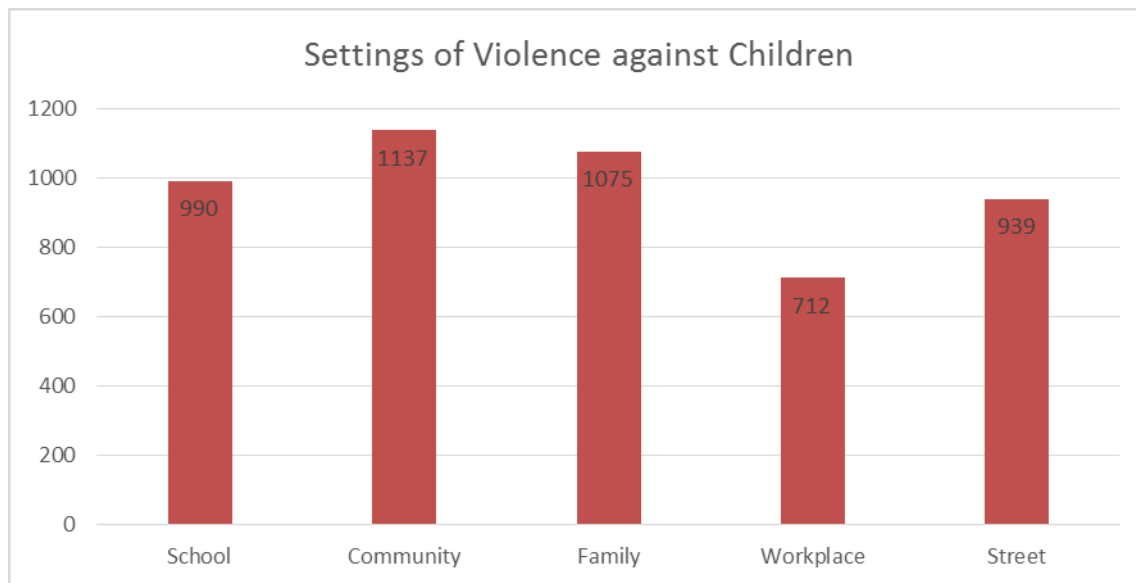
This section analysed the effects of economic violence on households and children. The result, as indicated in the table above, shows that hunger is the least effect of economic violence. The most severe effect of economic violence is HIV/AIDS/STI infections. This result is unsurprising since HIV/AIDS infection has a lasting effect on the victim. Although the disease is highly feared among the studied communities, children facing economic hardship are prone to indulge in the commercial sex trade as a means of living and consequently get infected. Denial of education and family separation was also identified as one of the effects of economic violence. Thus, economic hardship has the propensity to deny many children the right to education. Once children are involved in some form of economic violence like child labour and sexual exploitation, they are denied the right to education and are usually not able to contact their families for a long time. In addition, economic hardship has can lead to family separation leading to single parenthood. Trauma, STI /AIDS infections and sexual exploitations were some of the other effects of economic violence identified.

#### 4.6 Settings of Violence against Children

This subsection of the chapter presents the analysis of the mostly likely setting or place where one form of violence or other can occur.



**Figure 4.7: Settings of Violence against Children**



**Source: Field Data (2014)**

The study sought to find the various settings under which child violence occurs most. The settings identified were the school, the immediate community, the family, workplace and the street. From the figure above, the community was identified as the most common setting of violence against children. This was closely followed by the family. By implication, the people in the immediate surroundings, who are the community members and the family, are the main perpetrators of violence against children. The work place was found to be the least likely place where violence against children occurs. This could be as a result of children mostly below 18 years finding themselves in schools hence are not actively involved in the labour market. Similarly, other reports and studies (United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children, 2006; a brief from UNICEF Swaziland, 2008) on the settings of child violence cited many of these settings but emphasised that schools and homes are the places where violence against children are most likely to occur due to the child's proximity to these areas. Similarly, the baseline report for the Girl Power Programme (GPP) revealed the family (25.4%), community (23.4%) and schools and educational settings (21.4%) as prevalent places of violence against children. It is therefore understandable that the study found most of settings where child violence occurs. With this any preventive measure or awareness creation in these communities should begin from schools and homes all things being the same.

#### 4.7.1 Relationship between Demographic Characteristics and the Occurrence of Violence

**Table 4.6: Individual Characteristics and the Occurrence of Some Forms of Physical Violence**

| Forms of Physical violence |                      | Gender |        | Age      |         |         |          | Habitation                    |                           |              |                       |                    | Number of dependents/dependency ratio |           | Religion     |         |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Variables                  |                      | Male   | Female | below 18 | 18 - 35 | 36 - 60 | above 60 | living with father and mother | living with single parent | living alone | Physically challenged | active among peers | 0 - 0.49                              | 0.5 - 1.0 | Christianity | Islamic |
| 1. Bullying                | Experienced          | 44     | 52     | 51       | 29      | 6       | 9        | 33                            | 27                        | 196          | 1                     | 52                 | 4                                     | 17        | 7            | 9       |
|                            | Seen                 | 159    | 199    | 173      | 116     | 19      | 59       | 151                           | 75                        | 147          | 11                    | 194                | 54                                    | 57        | 71           | 41      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 274    | 333    | 296      | 175     | 42      | 117      | 196                           | 19                        | 47           | 17                    | 330                | 96                                    | 107       | 134          | 65      |
| 2. Beating                 | Experienced          | 46     | 67     | 64       | 39      | 21      | 3        | 44                            | 33                        | 10           | 3                     | 70                 | 11                                    | 24        | 18           | 10      |
|                            | Seen                 | 107    | 145    | 95       | 94      | 54      | 11       | 84                            | 47                        | 21           | 4                     | 124                | 48                                    | 46        | 51           | 44      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 379    | 465    | 454      | 229     | 156     | 16       | 31                            | 208                       | 56           | 27                    | 84                 | 116                                   | 130       | 164          | 82      |
| 3. Caning                  | Experienced          | 60     | 73     | 62       | 41      | 26      | 5        | 51                            | 40                        | 5            | 4                     | 67                 | 8                                     | 22        | 17           | 9       |
|                            | Seen                 | 79     | 111    | 53       | 75      | 53      | 12       | 50                            | 33                        | 18           | 1                     | 75                 | 47                                    | 41        | 51           | 34      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 401    | 503    | 505      | 245     | 155     | 14       | 353                           | 217                       | 63           | 29                    | 544                | 116                                   | 136       | 159          | 93      |
| 4. force injection         | Experienced          | 19     | 29     | 29       | 10      | 7       | 3        | 19                            | 11                        | 3            | 3                     | 31                 | 4                                     | 9         | 9            | 3       |
|                            | Seen                 | 191    | 208    | 205      | 104     | 68      | 17       | 137                           | 107                       | 25           | 12                    | 219                | 50                                    | 71        | 64           | 54      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 172    | 283    | 226      | 134     | 87      | 6        | 167                           | 108                       | 30           | 13                    | 243                | 74                                    | 74        | 98           | 48      |
| Total                      |                      | 1931   | 2468   | 2213     | 1291    | 694     | 272      | 1316                          | 925                       | 621          | 125                   | 2033               | 628                                   | 734       | 843          | 492     |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

This section sought to investigate the relationship between demographic characteristic and physical violence of the respondents; thus, whether or not a respondent has experienced physical violence as a result of his or her physical dispositions or the conditions of his/her immediate family. The individual characteristic assessed includes gender and age. Other factors like habitation, those physically challenged and activeness of an individual among peers were also assessed. The result, as indicated in the table above, shows that more females have seen or experienced bullying than males. Also, the majority of respondents below the ages of eighteen (18) among the age categories assessed have been bullied. The reasons for these findings can be explained as females being the physically and sexually weaker sex and are usually taken advantage of by their male counterpart bullying and sexually molesting them. The study also examined whether a child or an individual living alone or with either both parents or single parent affects his or her probability of been bullied. The result shows that children living alone are more prone to experiencing bullying. This is because the absence of the immediate family supports limits the protection of the children living alone without clear guidance and support against violence. Again, the result shows that one (1) physically challenged individual has experienced bullying whilst eleven (11) individuals have witnessed bullying.

Apart from the age and gender characteristics, the study also sought to find out how certain household attributes can influence child violence. These attributes included religion, and the level of poverty using the dependency ratio as proxy. Accordingly, the study examined the relationship between the rate of dependency ratio in a household and bullying as a form of physical violence. The result shows that bullying is more common among households with high dependency ratio of 0.5 and more. Thus, the occurrence of bullying increases with high dependency ratios. The result also shows that more Muslims have experienced bullying than Christians. From the table above, seven (7) Christian's households have experienced bullying as against nine (9) Islamic households.

The next section examined the impact of individual and family disposition on witnessing or experiencing beating. The result shows that females experience beating more often than males. sixty seven (67) females have experienced beating against forty six (46) males. This also reflects in the regularity of beating among females in general. Unsurprisingly, more individuals below eighteen (18) years have experienced beating than any other age category. The result further shows that individuals living with both parents experience beatings more often than those living alone or living with single parent. Three (3) physically challenged individuals have experienced beating. Seventy (70) active individuals among peers have experienced beating, a hundred and twenty four (124) active individuals have witnessed beating whereas four hundred and eighty four active individuals among peers have both experienced and witnessed beating. Again, household with high dependency ratios (and by inference high levels of poverty) have high rates beating occurrence. From this same table, the figures indicate that Christian homes experience more beating as a form of physical violence than do Muslim homes.

Another form of physical violence studied under this section is caning. The study found that there was a dominance of caning among females rather than males. Seventy three (73) females have experienced caning against sixty (60) males who have experienced caning. Respectively, caning is more common among females considering the number that has seen or experienced caning. With respect to the age category, there is an inverse relationship between experiencing or witnessing caning and the age group. In other words, as the age group increases, the possibility of an individual experiencing or witnessing caning decreases. Inferring from the table above, more individuals below eighteen (18) years have experienced caning than any other age category studied. The study further revealed that individuals living with both parents experience more caning than those living alone or living with a single parent. In other words, caning was found to be more common among those living with both parents. With the other household characteristics, the study found that, just like the other forms physical violence, caning is more common among households with high dependency ratios and Christian households as well.

Forced injection is one of the forms of physical violence studied. The study revealed a dominance of forced injection among females. In general, the study shows more forced injection among females than males as more females have either witnessed or experienced or witnessed and experienced forced injection than males. The study again reveals a positive relationship between forced injection and children. In other words, more children suffer forced injection than any other age category. Individuals living with both parents have experienced forced injection more often than those living alone or with a single parent. Thirty one (31) active individuals among peers have experienced forced injection, two hundred and nineteen have witnessed forced injection and two hundred and forty three have witnessed and experienced forced injection.

The exercise of cross-tabulating the demographic characteristics of the respondents against the forms of physical violence is very significant. There are some characteristics of the individuals that can influence and indeed drive the rate of violence being perpetrated against these individuals. For example, an overview and aggregation of all results on physical violence clearly shows from the table that persons with younger ages, females, single parenting, households with high dependency ratios and Christianity as a religion are the most affected victims of physical violence. Similar to the analysis above (where the younger children suffer physical violence most), a study by UNICEF (2010b) in 37 countries found about 86% of children below the age of 15 years were subject to forms of physical violence. Thus, children of such ages are naturally unable to protect or 'defend' themselves from such violence like bullying and caning and therefore become the most affected victims.

It is therefore not surprising that most studies (UN Secretary's report on child violence, 2006; WHO, 2004; Vigil et al., 2012) and national treaties and legislations (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990; Ghana's Children's Act 560, 1998) have concentrated on child violence.

#### 4.7.2 Relationship between Demographic Characteristics and some forms of Sexual Violence

Table 4.7: Relationship between Demographic Characteristics and some forms of Sexual Violence

| Forms of Sexual violence  |                      | Gender |        | Age      |         |         |          | Habitation               |                           |              |                       |                    | Number of dependents/dependency ratio |           | Religion     |         |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Variables                 |                      | Male   | Female | below 18 | 18 - 35 | 36 - 60 | above 60 | living with both parents | living with single parent | living alone | Physically challenged | active among peers | 0 - 0.49                              | 0.5 - 1.0 | Christianity | Islamic |
| 1. Defilement             | Experienced          | 12     | 17     | 15       | 13      | 6       | 0        | 4                        | 11                        | 2            | 0                     | 12                 | 4                                     | 80        | 5            | 5       |
|                           | Seen                 | 250    | 291    | 254      | 157     | 115     | 17       | 177                      | 125                       | 33           | 17                    | 286                | 83                                    | 39        | 117          | 62      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 37     | 83     | 54       | 30      | 134     | 7        | 31                       | 36                        | 20           | 5                     | 59                 | 13                                    | 5         | 21           | 12      |
| 2. Rape                   | Experienced          | 11     | 13     | 5        | 10      | 5       | 0        | 3                        | 6                         | 1            | 0                     | 10                 | 2                                     | 6         | 4            | 2       |
|                           | Seen                 | 253    | 295    | 242      | 167     | 121     | 23       | 166                      | 137                       | 34           | 20                    | 271                | 85                                    | 114       | 127          | 65      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 10     | 38     | 22       | 73      | 23      | 1        | 15                       | 15                        | 3            | 2                     | 17                 | 5                                     | 9         | 9            | 5       |
| 3. Indecent assault       | Experienced          | 16     | 48     | 33       | 26      | 9       | 2        | 17                       | 24                        | 6            | 1                     | 35                 | 8                                     | 12        | 6            | 11      |
|                           | Seen                 | 244    | 237    | 234      | 162     | 118     | 19       | 167                      | 99                        | 27           | 9                     | 246                | 71                                    | 98        | 100          | 67      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 107    | 216    | 185      | 145     | 67      | 7        | 121                      | 97                        | 29           | 19                    | 200                | 53                                    | 52        | 75           | 29      |
| 4. incest                 | Experienced          | 6      | 1      | 1        | 3       | 3       | 1        | 1                        | 1                         | 1            | 0                     | 4                  | 0                                     | 3         | 1            | 0       |
|                           | Seen                 | 167    | 224    | 172      | 95      | 114     | 5        | 112                      | 79                        | 27           | 12                    | 178                | 65                                    | 98        | 100          | 57      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 4      | 18     | 11       | 6       | 4       | 2        | 8                        | 8                         | 0            | 2                     | 8                  | 3                                     | 4         | 1            | 6       |
| 5. compulsion of marriage | Experienced          | 12     | 20     | 9        | 12      | 10      | 1        | 5                        | 8                         | 3            | 1                     | 12                 | 4                                     | 11        | 6            | 6       |
|                           | Seen                 | 297    | 381    | 306      | 190     | 139     | 17       | 220                      | 159                       | 49           | 22                    | 355                | 109                                   | 99        | 135          | 95      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 28     | 62     | 34       | 15      | 31      | 1        | 20                       | 18                        | 14           | 4                     | 30                 | 14                                    | 16        | 10           | 26      |
| 6. Abduction              | Experienced          | 13     | 20     | 22       | 8       | 3       | 1        | 10                       | 11                        | 5            | 1                     | 20                 | 0                                     | 3         | 0            | 4       |
|                           | Seen                 | 200    | 251    | 215      | 138     | 89      | 13       | 139                      | 115                       | 33           | 10                    | 245                | 62                                    | 91        | 93           | 57      |
|                           | Experienced and seen | 32     | 67     | 54       | 28      | 22      | 14       | 28                       | 31                        | 14           | 10                    | 49                 | 16                                    | 19        | 1            | 17      |
| Total                     |                      | 1699   | 2282   | 1868     | 1278    | 1013    | 131      | 1244                     | 980                       | 301          | 135                   | 2037               | 597                                   | 759       | 811          | 526     |

Source: Field Data (2014)

Like the previous section, this section examines the relationship between some individual characteristic and sexual violence on the one hand and some household characteristics and the occurrence of sexual violence on the other hand. Specifically, the section assessed whether an individual has experienced sexual violence as a result of his or her physical dispositions or due to the conditions of his or her family. Gender, age, and physical dispositions are used for individual characteristics, while poverty (measured by dependency ratio) and religion are used as measures of household characteristics. The result as indicated in the table above shows that more females experience defilement than males in the various geographical areas studied. Generally, in the classifications as to whether an individual has experienced or seen or seen and experienced defilement, females dominate males.

With respect to the age category, individuals below eighteen (18) years of age dominate those who have experienced defilement. With respect to single or both parenting, individuals living with a single parent have the highest frequency of experiencing defilement. In addition, those who are physically challenged or have suffered some form of disability often experienced defilement as a form of sexual violence. On the household characteristics, households with a high dependency ratio experience more cases of defilement as compared with those with a smaller rate of dependency ratio. The result also shows that Christians are more associated with defilement as a form of sexual violence.

The next section studied the relationship between individual disposition and rape. The result shows that more females have been victims and witnesses of rape than males. Five children below eighteen (18) years have experienced rape whereas seven (7) individuals between eighteen (18) years to thirty six (36) years have experienced rape. The majority of individuals who live with a single parent have experienced rape than those living alone or living with both parents. With respect to an individual's activeness among peers, rape is more common among those who have witnessed rape than those who have experienced rape. Households with a dependency ratio of 0.49 and above have been the worst affected victims of rape. The result again depicts the dominance of rape among Christian households. This could be as a result of the shame that comes with reporting or talking about rape cases among Muslims. This may result in most rape cases in Islamic households go unreported. On the other hand, there have been some conscious efforts by some churches to desist from shielding perpetrators of sexual violence and handling cases of abuse for such cases are criminal in nature. For instance, the founder and President of the Kinder Foundation, a Christian Non-governmental Organization (NGO), in a speech at the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Child Development Centre of the Trinity Parish of the Global Evangelical Church at Kotobabi in Accra urged churches to have child protection policies that protect children from abuse, and stressed that "The church should not handle cases of sexual abuse. Domestic violence cases are criminal in nature. Such cases must be reported" (Graphic.com.gh, October 2015).

Indecent assault was one of the forms of sexual violence studied. The result shows that indecent assault is more common among females. Thus, more females either experience or witness indecent assault. Individuals aged below eighteen (18) have experienced indecent assault more than any other age category. Thus, there is a high rate of violence against children in the form of indecent assault among the population studied. From the table above, individuals living with a single parent suffer indecent assault more than those living alone or living with both parents. Clearly, the table also shows that households with a high dependency ratio have high incidences of indecent assault. However, indecent assault is more common among Muslims in the communities studied.

Compulsion of marriage was one of the measures of sexual violence, and from the analysis of the results and as expected, is common among females. Twenty (20) females have experienced compulsion of marriage against only twelve (12) males. Age was also identified as having a relationship with compulsion of marriage especially among children rather than with older persons, since the latter can resist compulsion and protect themselves. Compulsion of marriage was revealed to be common among individuals living with a single parent. The experience is that single parents mostly struggle to take care of their girls and so tend to send them to marriage so as to benefit from the marriage and/or free themselves from the burden of caring for the dependant girls. Again, households with high levels of dependency ration ( $> 0.49$ ) recorded high rates of compulsion of marriage in their homes and communities. The result again shows a close number in terms of Muslims and Christians who have experience more of false marriage.

The study on the relationship between individual disposition and sexual violence was concluded with “abduction”. The study found abduction to be more prevalent among females. That is, more females have experience or seen abduction than males among the sampled population. In addition, households with a dependency ratio above 0.49 are more likely to experience abduction. Again, more Christians have a history of being abducted than Muslims.

In a nutshell, the discussion on respondents’ characteristics and sexual violence, a person has a higher probability of experiencing sexual violence if the person is a female, aged below 18 years, living with both parents, lives in a household with more dependents, and lives in a Christian household.

Again, the study points to the fact that some physical characteristics and the state of family or parenting can influence the perpetrating of sexual violence on children, especially female victims. Like the analysis on physical violence, it is important to do this comparison of individual characteristics and sexual violence since in most cases there is a direct relationship between these two. For example the varying characteristics in terms of age, gender, single parenting, and disability, pose different risks of being a victim of sexual violence. From a holistic view of the analysis above it is clear that female, young children and persons from single parenting homes, households with high dependency ratio ( $> 0.49$ ) and Christians are the most

likely victims of one form of sexual violence or other. Accordingly, Pinherio (2006) agrees that gender plays a crucial role in child sexual violence, as more females are sexually abused compared to their male counterparts. In addition, Avid et al. (2007) revealed that girls, who before becoming 18 years, suffer more sexual violence than their boy counterparts. These characteristics of individuals serve as antecedents and subsequently increase the rate of sexual violence.



### 4.7.3 Relationship between Demographic Characteristic and some Forms of Psychological Violence

**Table 4.8a: Relationship between Individual Characteristic and some Forms of Psychological Violence**

| Forms of Economic violence |                      | Gender |        | age      |         |         |          | Habitation                    |                           |              |                       |                    | Number of dependents/dependency ratio |           | Religion     |         |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Variables                  |                      | Male   | Female | below 18 | 18 - 35 | 36 - 60 | above 60 | living with father and mother | living with single parent | living alone | Physically challenged | active among peers | 0 - 0.49                              | 0.5 - 1.0 | Christianity | Islamic |
| 1. child labour            | Experienced          | 16     | 30     | 23       | 15      | 2       | 4        | 11                            | 13                        | 6            | 2                     | 19                 | 2                                     | 9         | 5            | 5       |
|                            | Seen                 | 331    | 418    | 370      | 236     | 135     | 18       | 294                           | 160                       | 51           | 19                    | 444                | 112                                   | 119       | 136          | 92      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 151    | 186    | 152      | 92      | 88      | 10       | 83                            | 93                        | 31           | 12                    | 153                | 53                                    | 64        | 77           | 40      |
| 2. child trafficking       | Experienced          | 12     | 17     | 12       | 9       | 6       | 1        | 7                             | 9                         | 3            | 4                     | 9                  | 2                                     | 5         | 5            | 1       |
|                            | Seen                 | 273    | 350    | 297      | 179     | 130     | 4        | 211                           | 137                       | 43           | 18                    | 331                | 103                                   | 115       | 123          | 88      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 44     | 47     | 26       | 28      | 29      | 3        | 16                            | 23                        | 14           | 2                     | 33                 | 11                                    | 15        | 16           | 11      |
| 3. sexual exploitation     | Experienced          | 11     | 16     | 13       | 9       | 2       | 2        | 8                             | 7                         | 1            | 1                     | 11                 | 2                                     | 7         | 4            | 4       |
|                            | Seen                 | 226    | 242    | 207      | 137     | 112     | 12       | 141                           | 110                       | 26           | 17                    | 238                | 81                                    | 90        | 104          | 63      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 40     | 15     | 45       | 30      | 30      | 5        | 30                            | 31                        | 20           | 5                     | 47                 | 6                                     | 21        | 14           | 13      |
| 4. slavery                 | Experienced          | 4      | 5      | 9        | 6       | 4       | 0        | 4                             | 1                         | 1            | 0                     | 5                  | 1                                     | 4         | 2            | 3       |
|                            | Seen                 | 175    | 236    | 212      | 107     | 78      | 14       | 143                           | 101                       | 21           | 14                    | 217                | 59                                    | 75        | 87           | 44      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 41     | 56     | 42       | 22      | 30      | 5        | 21                            | 21                        | 7            | 7                     | 46                 | 13                                    | 25        | 23           | 16      |
| Total                      |                      | 1324   | 1618   | 1408     | 870     | 646     | 78       | 969                           | 706                       | 224          | 101                   | 1553               | 445                                   | 549       | 596          | 380     |

**Source: Field Data (2014)**

This section assesses the relationship between individual characteristics and psychological violence as to how the former could influence the occurrence of the latter. The individual characteristic studied like the previous characteristics includes gender, age, and individual depositions. The result as indicated in Table 4.8a above shows that more females have been teased than their male counterparts in the sampled population. The result again shows that individuals with ages less than 18 years are often teased more than any other age category. From the result above, people living alone are often teased more than those living with a single parent or both parents. Teasing as a form of psychological violence was common among households with high dependency ratio. As shown in Table 4.8a above, more Muslims experience teasing than Christians.

Another form of psychological violence studied is humiliation. The result shows that more females experience humiliation as psychological violence than males. The result also shows greater regularity of humiliation among individuals with ages less than 18 years than other age groups. Again, individuals living with both parents are often humiliated more than those living alone or with a single parent. This could be the result of the breakdown in the protective function of the family or that the family is the main perpetrators of humiliation on children. The result also shows greater regularity of humiliation among households that have a high dependency ratio than those with a low dependency ratio. More Christians experience humiliation than Muslims.

The study again examined the influence of the household characteristics on neglect as a form of psychological violence. The result shows that more females experience having been neglected than males. Again, like the other forms of psychological violence, the result shows a high rate of neglect among persons with ages less than 18 years. From the result in Table 4.8a above, people living with a single parent are often more neglected than those living alone or living with both parents. The result also shows child neglect as more common in high dependency ratio households. The table also depicts more Christians experiencing neglect than Muslims.

Finally, this section examines the relationship between individual characteristics and insult as a form of psychological violence. The result shows that more females are being insulted than males. Again, the young (less than 18 years) are the most affected victims of insults.

An aggregation of the results on the various forms of psychological violence and their association with some demographic characteristics indicate that females, young persons, persons living with both parents and single parents as well as households with high dependency rate are more affected. Again, Christian households are more affected by psychological violence as compared to Muslim households.

Most of these findings could have some cultural explanations relating to some Ghanaian homes. For example, we see that some forms of psychological violence like teasing, insults and humiliation are associated more with females or individuals of young ages. Usually in Ghanaian homes, children do not have a say in matters including those that concern them; consequently, they are humiliated or insulted at the least provocation if their attempt to participate in

discussions. Since perpetrators see these insults and humiliations as a norm for correcting children, they do not usually consider the acts as violence against these victims.

These findings compare to a study conducted by ACPF in 2010, which indicated that psychological abuse is usually high between the ages of 14 and 17 years and common among females within the selected African countries in the study. A possible explanation to this feminist bias analysis is the culture of most African countries that women are usually treated as 'second class' citizens compared to their male counterpart; hence are usually subjected to various forms of violence and punishment without recourse.

#### 4.7.4 Relationship between Demographic Characteristic and Some forms of Economic Violence

**Table 4.9a: Relationship between Individual Characteristic and Some Forms of Economic Violence**

| Forms of Economic violence |                      | Gender |        | age      |         |         |          | Habitation                    |                           |              |                       |                    | Number of dependents/dependency ratio |           | Religion     |         |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------|
| Variables                  |                      | Male   | Female | below 18 | 18 - 35 | 36 - 60 | above 60 | living with father and mother | living with single parent | living alone | Physically challenged | active among peers | 0 - 0.49                              | 0.5 - 1.0 | Christianity | Islamic |
| 1. child labour            | Experienced          | 16     | 30     | 23       | 15      | 2       | 4        | 11                            | 13                        | 6            | 2                     | 19                 | 2                                     | 9         | 5            | 5       |
|                            | Seen                 | 331    | 418    | 370      | 236     | 135     | 18       | 294                           | 160                       | 51           | 19                    | 444                | 112                                   | 119       | 136          | 92      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 151    | 186    | 152      | 92      | 88      | 10       | 83                            | 93                        | 31           | 12                    | 153                | 53                                    | 64        | 77           | 40      |
| 2. child trafficking       | Experienced          | 12     | 17     | 12       | 9       | 6       | 1        | 7                             | 9                         | 3            | 4                     | 9                  | 2                                     | 5         | 5            | 1       |
|                            | Seen                 | 273    | 350    | 297      | 179     | 130     | 4        | 211                           | 137                       | 43           | 18                    | 331                | 103                                   | 115       | 123          | 88      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 44     | 47     | 26       | 28      | 29      | 3        | 16                            | 23                        | 14           | 2                     | 33                 | 11                                    | 15        | 16           | 11      |
| 3. sexual exploitation     | Experienced          | 11     | 16     | 13       | 9       | 2       | 2        | 8                             | 7                         | 1            | 1                     | 11                 | 2                                     | 7         | 4            | 4       |
|                            | Seen                 | 226    | 242    | 207      | 137     | 112     | 12       | 141                           | 110                       | 26           | 17                    | 238                | 81                                    | 90        | 104          | 63      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 40     | 15     | 45       | 30      | 30      | 5        | 30                            | 31                        | 20           | 5                     | 47                 | 6                                     | 21        | 14           | 13      |
| 4. slavery                 | Experienced          | 4      | 5      | 9        | 6       | 4       | 0        | 4                             | 1                         | 1            | 0                     | 5                  | 1                                     | 4         | 2            | 3       |
|                            | Seen                 | 175    | 236    | 212      | 107     | 78      | 14       | 143                           | 101                       | 21           | 14                    | 217                | 59                                    | 75        | 87           | 44      |
|                            | Experienced and seen | 41     | 56     | 42       | 22      | 30      | 5        | 21                            | 21                        | 7            | 7                     | 46                 | 13                                    | 25        | 23           | 16      |
| Total                      |                      | 1324   | 1618   | 1408     | 870     | 646     | 78       | 969                           | 706                       | 224          | 101                   | 1553               | 445                                   | 549       | 596          | 380     |

Source: Field Data (2014)

This section assessed the relationship between individual characteristics and economic violence. In other words, this section examined whether an individual has experienced economic violence as a result of his or her physical dispositions. Again, the individual characteristic studied includes gender, age, parental status etc. The result as indicated in Table 4.9a above shows that more females experience child labour than their male counterparts as a result of their economic circumstances. The category of individuals aged below eighteen (18) years have the highest rate of child labour. The result shows that people living with a single parent have a higher rate of experiencing child labour than those living alone or living with single parent. Again, the rate of child labour increases with higher dependency ratios. Thus, a household with a large number of dependents is likely to force the child into child labour to fend for themselves or supplement family income. The result further shows no significant difference between the two religions (Islam and Christianity) and their association with child labour as a form of economic violence.

The result on the relationship between gender and child trafficking shows a higher incidence of child trafficking among females than males just like the results for child labour. Those who normally suffer from child trafficking are below the ages of eighteen (18) years as reflected in the number of children who experience child trafficking the table above. Seven (7) individuals living with both parents have experienced child trafficking; nine (9) people living with a single parent have experienced child trafficking; and three (3) respondents living alone have experienced child trafficking. By inference, those living with a single parent and living alone have a higher rate of experiencing child trafficking. As with the previous findings, the study revealed that child trafficking is more common in households with a high dependency ratio among the study sample. There also exists a high rate of child trafficking among Christian households as compared to Islamic households.

The study also assessed the relationship between sexual exploitation and some household characteristics. The study revealed a higher number of cases of sexual exploitation among females than their male counterparts. The study also revealed that individuals below the ages of eighteen (18) are more prone to sexual exploitation. Eight (8) persons living with both parents have experienced sexual exploitation; seven (7) persons living with a single parent have experienced sexual exploitation; and one (1) person living alone has been sexually exploited. Interestingly, and contrary to the other forms of economic violence, this result depicts a high incidence of sexual exploitation among those living with both parents. A total of about twenty-five (25) disabled persons have experienced one form of economic violence or the other. In addition, the results show that a large number of household dependants (measured by dependency ratio) is associated with high incidences of sexual exploitation among members of those households. In terms of religion, Christian households recorded more incidence of sexual exploitation as compared to Islamic households.

Finally, this section assessed the relationship between slavery and individual characteristics. The study shows a higher incidence of slavery among females than males. Slavery as a form of economic violence is more common among individuals below eighteen (18) years of age. The result further shows a high incidence of slavery among individuals living with both parents.

Like the other types of violence and their associated forms, economic violence is common among females and persons aged below 18 years, households with a high dependency ratio, Christian households and persons living with both parents.

Most of the findings in general are not surprising, for instance, the association of a high dependency ratio with economic violence. The ILO (2002) cites poor financial and economic status of families as a major cause of economic violence. Thus, children especially, are forced and coerced into child slavery and prostitution to become agents of money making for most homes that suffer from low income levels and poverty. In typical Ghanaian communities where poverty is very common, parents see economic violence not as a crime but rather a means of survival for the entire family. In these cases, children could be trafficked especially to the urban areas to do menial jobs. In effect, characteristics such as being female and coming from a poor financial background encourage economic violence against children.

#### **4.8 Protection Systems for Violence against Children**

The field study and interviews with key stakeholders including the traditional Chiefs, Assembly members, the Domestic Violence Unit of the Ghana Police Service, the Local Assemblies, Churches, children and households show that there are good norms and laws on violence against children. However, the implementation of these norms and laws has been ineffective due to a number of reasons. The results of the interviews are presented here.

##### **4.8.1 Protection Systems and Measures on violence against Children**

The policy makers, law enforcement agents and community leaders indicated that there are adequate national legislation, policies, plans of action and structures and mechanisms to protect children from violence. These include the 1992 Ghanaian Republican Constitution; the Children's Act 560 (1998); the Domestic Violence Act 732 (2007); the Human Trafficking Act 694 (2005); and Juvenile Justice Act 653 (2003). Among the institutions and agencies established and developed are the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service (GPS); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) (2013); Department of Children (DOC) (2013); Gender-based Violence Court (GBVC); Girl Child Education Unit (GCEU) of the Ghana Education Service (GES) to address disparity between boys and girls in school enrolment and retention; Free Compulsory Basic Education (1996) to ensure every child of school going age receive basic education up to the age of 15; National Plan of Action on the elimination of the worst forms of Child Labour in Ghana (2011); National Policy and Plan of Action on Domestic Violence (2009); Under 5 Child Health Policy (2007); Livelihood empowerment against the poor (2007) supporting for the very poor including children and families to survive and live in dignity; Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) (2010) providing support for education and fosterage arrangements for orphans and vulnerable children; National Gender and Children's Policy (2013) to promote gender equality and child protection; and Child and Family Welfare Policy (2015) to ensure child protection policy 'fit' for Ghana.

Certain practices and measures were also identified as remedial measures applied by the traditional rulers and CSOs in dealing with violence against children. These include offering counselling services to parents of victims of child abuse and the victims themselves as well as referral support services. According to the traditional chiefs, unwillingness of people to report cases of violence against children and lack of education on the rights of children is the main hindrance to dealing with child abuse. It must be mentioned that the traditional rulers do not see their role in fighting against violence against children as interference in the activities of government agencies responsible for dealing with the act since cases beyond their jurisdiction are reported to the police.

#### **4.8.2 Awareness on Protection Systems and Measures on Violence against Children**

Even though there is national legislation and formal and informal systems for protecting children from violence, most parents and children are unaware of the places and procedures to seek redress for cases of violence against children. It was understood from the interviews that most of the formal structures and mechanisms are located far away from the vicinity of the communities. The Police, Social Welfare, Legal Aid, family tribunals/juvenile courts and Human Rights Commission are mostly sited in the district capital and bigger towns and cities. Hence, the majority of the community people do not know the existence of these structures and the national laws protecting children from violence. Those who are aware of the available systems and measures claimed to have obtained the information from civil society organisations (CSO) working in the communities and some community leaders.

The policy and law enforcement agencies that are supposed to educate the public, especially in the communities where most of the children and parents are residing, lack the resources for extensive work on that. The limited public education undertaken by these agencies are usually done in formal other than the native languages. The result is that the education and sensitisation efforts made by these formal systems are not understood by the majority of the people in the communities who are mostly illiterates. Ignorance on the protection systems and measures are therefore high in the communities.

#### **4.8.3 Implementation of the Protection Systems and Mechanisms on Violence against Children**

Although there are good policies and laws on violence against children within the formal system, the evidence on the implementation of these laws have achieved less results. Institutions such as the Domestic Violence Unit of the Ghana Police Service and the Social Services Department of

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*Question: How do you keep records on cases of violence against children?*

*Response: We do not have data on number of violence cases against children we have worked on. DOVVSU will be in position to give you data. We do not have the resources in the form of computers and books to keep records on the case. We would be grateful if your organization can assist us in providing us with computers and furnishing the office. – Worker at Social Welfare Department*

---

the Local Assembly are not well resourced. There is a recount of the ordeal of personnel at the Social Services Department of the District Assemblies as they lack logistics needed to carry on their operations. There were no computers and note books to keep records of cases of violence against children. All the government agencies responsible for dealing with cases of violence against children are financially stricken.

Rapid urbanization makes it difficult for these institutions to track victims of violence coupled with lack of permanent residence to locate children who are victims of violence. Lack of protection for whistle-blowers and opinion leaders adds up to the existing challenges faced by authorities and institutions in dealing with violence against children. All the government agencies and institutions responsible for dealing with VAC noted that most cases are not reported and makes it difficult to follow up with the issue and punish perpetrators. As noted by the DOVVSU of the Ghana Police Service, for every one case that is reported, there are a lot more out there that are not reported. This situation makes the fight against violence against children a difficult task.

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*Question: How do you deal with unreported cases of violence against children?*

*Response: It is very difficult to trace unreported cases of violence against children. We (DOVVSU) get to know mostly from the media (Radio and Television) especially. However, parents and/or victims of these cases are usually not willing to pursue the issue by assisting the Police with the necessary information. Some even fail to witness in court which could deter others from the act.*

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Accessibility to the protection structures and institutions is also an issue. The formal protection systems are mostly located far from the communities and so those who may be aware of the systems hardly access them due to distance and cost of transportation and/or services.

***Since most of the families of victims of child violence are poor, we have to sponsor their transportation and sometimes the medical bills for the victims when the cases reported to the centre are referred to the formal justice systems – reported by a social worker at the socio-legal defence centre of the DCI-Ghana in Kumasi.***

Although traditional rulers and CSOs remain important in the fight against child abuse especially at the local and community level, they remain unpopular due to increasing urbanization and undocumented nature of norms and sanctions against the act. For instance, interviews with traditional chiefs revealed punishment for perpetrators of violence against children; however, there were no records of these norms and cases arbitrated by the traditional chiefs. There is no



proper documentation to be used as a reference point for the various punishment meted out to perpetrators of violence against children.

#### **4.8.4 Improvement in the Protection Systems and Measures on Violence against Children**

Enforcement of Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE) for children to attend school in their communities and empowerment of households in order to support their wards were some of the general points of consensus by stakeholders interviewed as a means of dealing with violence against children. There must be proper coordination among agencies that deal with cases of child abuse. For instance, due to the lack of proper coordination, victims of violence against children are made to pay for medical bills contrary to the policy on providing health services to victims of VAC. This practice has the ability to deter or delay the provision of justice to the victim since in most cases the victims and/or their families cannot afford to pay.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND SUGGESTED POLICY DIRECTIONS**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents a summary of findings from the entire studies and some suggested policy directions as informed by the findings.

### **5.1. Summary of Findings**

#### **5.1.1 Forms of Violence**

The study recorded many types and forms of child violence within the study areas. Specifically, forms of violence such as caning, indecent assaults, insult, child labour belonging to the physical, sexual, psychological and economic types of violence respectively were found to be common across almost all the study participants.

#### **5.1.2 Prevalence Rate of Violence against Children**

The following conclusions have been reached on the prevalent rate of violence against children:

Child violence such as caning, beating and forced injection was recorded as the most common forms of physical violence perpetuated against children. This high prevalence rate can be explained culturally. These forms of violence are sometimes regarded as punitive or a deterrent measure rather than an act of violence being perpetuated against the child. By implication, it becomes problematic to reduce or stop physical violence and some of its associated forms since it has a cultural interpretation by its perpetrators.

There were also high rates of reporting on sexual violence among respondents. The forms of sexual violence with the highest prevalence rate included rape, defilement, and indecent assault.

Forms of psychological violence such as insults and teasing were common among the other forms used in the study. The ranking of insults and teasing as most prevalent by the respondents have some cultural antecedents just like the occurrence of physical violence. They are seen as a way of ‘correcting’ a child who goes wayward. In effect, it is not regarded as a form of violence that requires attention and preventive measures.

Finally, child labour, child trafficking and sexual exploitation were the most prevalent forms of economic violence against children identified in the study areas. Economic violence in the form of child labour and child trafficking are usually linked to poverty. In a typical Ghanaian family where poverty is common, parents usually do not have any option but to ‘push’ their children into such ‘trade’.

### **5.1.3 Causes of Violence against Children**

From the findings of the study, causes of child violence were categorized into two major factors - family related causes and cultural or societal related causes. With respect to family related causes, factors such as single parenting, parents who have themselves experienced some form of violence and families with large numbers of dependents were found to be the most common preconditions of child violence. Cultural or societal related causes included stigmatization and regarding some forms of violence as 'normal' or as a form of 'punishment' to children who do wrong. While most of the family related causes (such as violent parents and poverty) are common across the globe, socio-cultural causes (such as stigmatisation) are usually common within a jurisdiction.

### **5.1.4 Effects of Violence against Children**

The study only sought to find the impact of child violence on the victims themselves and not any other entity or individual.

The effects of physical violence on victims included injuries, deformity, illness and even some times death. These effects are at times so severe and pronounced (as shown from the direct quotation in the discussion section) that they subsequently could lead to the death of the victim.

The study indicates unwanted or unplanned pregnancy as the main effect of sexual violence. Other effects included: emotional and psychological trauma; sexually transmitted diseases (especially HIV and AIDS); and lack of trust on the part of the victims.

The results indicate poor academic performance as the main effect of psychological violence followed by psychological trauma. Trust issues, thought of suicide and drug and substance abuse were also identified as some of the effects of psychological violence.

Denial of education and family separation was the main effect among the many other effects of economic violence. When children are involved in some form of economic violence like child labour, they are denied the right to education and are usually not able to contact their families for a long time. Other forms of economic violence such as sexual exploitation are what leads to sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

### **5.1.5 Settings of Violence against Children**

The school, the immediate community, the family, workplace and the street were the main settings of violence against children. By implication, the people in the immediate surroundings such as community members and the family are the main perpetrators of violence against children.

### **5.1.6 Relationship between a Person's Characteristic and Violence against Children.**

In general, more females experience physical violence than males. In addition, individuals living with both parents often experience some form of physical violence as compared to those living alone or living with a single parent. In effect, gender and parenting have some influence on the occurrence of violence.

Physical violence is more common among households with more dependents. With respect to religion, there were no significant differences between Christians or Muslims as the most victims of child violence.

Gender, age and parenting were observed as having an influence on the occurrence of sexual violence. For instance, the study revealed that females, younger persons and persons with single parents are those who are more likely to become victims of sexual violence.

Big family sizes and a high number of dependents were associated with high occurrence rates of psychological violence. Psychological violence is also common among females, the youthful populace and in Christian homes.

Again, individual characteristics such as age and gender were associated with some forms of economic violence. Specifically, females and persons under the age of 18 were commonly found to be victims of some forms of economic violence such as child labour, sexual exploitation and child trafficking. In addition, just like the other types of violence, the above forms of economic violence were common in households with a large number of dependents.

### **5.1.7. Findings on Protective Systems**

These findings were on the availability, accessibility and affordability of protective systems for child violence.

In a summary, it was found that various protective systems including laws, by-laws (for example for certain localities), agents and agencies exist for the purposes of preventing child violence. However, certain problems and setbacks make it almost impossible for operations of these protective systems. Lack of public awareness, high cost of accessibility, inadequate material resources (especially for the agencies), corrupt agents and agencies, and difficulty in having accurate and up to date data on child violence are the many challenges that both victims and crusaders of child violence face in most of the communities.

To those interviewed, private-public sector collaborations, awareness creation, resourcing agencies and empowering poor communities and families are some of the approaches that can be used in preventing child violence.

## **5.2 Recommendations and Policy Direction**

From the study findings, the following recommendations are made for future action. These recommendations include curative, preventive and punitive measures that are necessary in the fight against child violence.

### **5.2.1. Preventive Measures**

There is the need to re-orient society on the various forms of child violence and the right of the child. Aspects of culture that promotes violence against the child must be discarded. In this regards, physical violence such as caning, beating, among others should not be seen as a “corrective” measure when children do wrong.

In addition, families and communities need to be empowered (especially single parenting families) to adequately support children. Poverty and poor standards of living are seen from the studies as some of the major causes of sexual and economic violence. Empowering families and giving them a sustainable source of livelihood will be a step in the right direction towards reducing child violence such as child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and rape. These forms of economic empowerment require the joint efforts of both governmental and non-governmental agencies and a great resource commitment.

Anti-child violence organisations and associations such as children’s clubs and peer educators in schools, churches/mosques and communities must be encouraged and made effective to engage the children and empower them to be active in their various activities and processes towards the eradication of child violence in their communities.

### **5.2.2. Curative Measures**

There must be rehabilitation facilities in the local communities to assist in re-orienting persons with a history of having experienced violence. Government and non-governmental organisations can help in establishing rehabilitation centres in local communities. These facilities will provide social services to parents and children who suffer violence. This effort must be complemented by training and engaging professional social workers such as clinical psychologists and counselors in both the formal and informal sectors.

Collaboration among stakeholders dealing with violence against children must be strengthened to effectively achieve the goals of child protection services. This form of collaboration must bring together stakeholders in the public services as well as private institutions and organisations to coordinate their activities on child protection.

### **5.2.3. Punitive Measures**

Discussions with the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service and the field survey showed most cases of child violence go unreported and unpunished. There is the need to sensitize and make society aware of the available resources (including law enforcement agencies) around to deal with violence against children. Stakeholders such as the Municipal Assemblies, the Social Welfare Units and DOVSU among others can help in this direction by organizing programs that educates the public on violence against children and means of addressing such violence. Where possible, these agencies could collaborate with CSOs in the sensitization programs.

Again, there should be stiffer punishment for perpetrators of violence against children. That will serve as a deterrent to perpetrators of violence against children.

Finally, punishing law enforcement officers and policy implementation agencies that shows unprofessional attitudes towards child violence will be a good approach as well. Law enforcement agencies and officers that engage in any unprofessional behaviour such as corruption and bribery, shielding perpetrators, and aiding and abetting child violence must be severely punished to serve as a deterrent.

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APPENDICES  
APPENDIX I: STUDY QUESTIONNAIRE

**DEFENCE FOR CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL**



**REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEX TOURISM**

This questionnaire seeks to solicit your views on violence against children. We would appreciate if you could spare us some of your time to complete the survey for us. *If you wish not to participate in this study, you can do so by not answering this survey instrument. Answering this survey instrument implies your consent in participating in the study.* Please, note that this exercise is purely for an advocacy purpose. No person or group of persons would be cited or mentioned in the final analysis and discussion of results.

For further enquiries concerning this exercise, please contact

P.O.Box FN812

Kumasi, Ghana

Tel: 0244811446

Tel: 0208187127

Email: [rapoo2002@yahoo.com](mailto:rapoo2002@yahoo.com)

Thank you.

1. Location of survey.....

2. Date.....

3. Name of Interviewer.....

4. Characteristics of respondent: Provide answers or tick  the one which apply

| <i>Characteristics</i>                  | <i>Response or tick</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Age                                  |                         |                                     |  |
| 2. Gender                               |                         |                                     |  |
| 3. Never been to school                 |                         |                                     |  |
| 4. Primary/Junior High School           |                         |                                     |  |
| 5. Senior High School/Vocational School |                         |                                     |  |
| 6. Tertiary education                   |                         |                                     |  |
| 7. Religion                             |                         |                                     |  |

**Questions 8 and 9 are for the individual category whiles questions 10 and 11 are for household head category**

8. Are you physically challenged? a. Yes  b. No

9. If yes, specify the challenge .....

10. Number of people in your household.....

11. Number of people working.....

## 5.0 Indicator area 1: Forms of Violence against Children

Which of the following forms of violence have you ever experienced or seen a child experienced?

Tick  if you have ever experienced or seen a child suffer any of the following form of violence before.

### 5.1 Forms of Physical violence

| Physical violence        | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if experienced yourself | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if seen |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Bullying               |   |                                       |
| • Beating                |   |                                       |
| • Canning                |   |                                       |
| • Force injection        |   |                                       |
| • Other (please specify) |   |                                       |

### 5.2 Forms of Sexual violence

| Sexual violence          | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if experienced yourself | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if seen |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Defilement             |   |                                       |
| • Rape                   |   |                                       |
| • Indecent assault       |   |                                       |
| • Incest                 |   |                                       |
| • Compulsion of marriage |   |                                       |
| • Abduction              |   |                                       |
| • Other (please specify) |   |                                       |

### 5.3 Forms of Psychological violence

| Psychological violence   | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if experienced yourself | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if seen |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Teasing                |   |                                       |
| • Humiliation            |   |                                       |
| • Neglect                |   |                                       |
| • Insult                 |   |                                       |
| • Other (please specify) |   |                                       |

## 5.4 Forms of Economic violence

| <b>Economic violence</b> | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if experience yourself | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> if seen |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Child labour           |  |                                       |
| • Child trafficking      |  |                                       |
| • Sexual exploitation    |  |                                       |
| • Slavery                |  |                                       |
| • Other (please specify) |  |                                       |

## 6.0 Indicator area 2: Prevalence Rate of Violence against Children

Rank according to which of the various forms of violence is common in your area. Assign values from 1 as “most common”.

### 6.1 Prevalence of Physical violence

| <b>Physical violence</b>          | <b>Rank</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Bullying                        |             |
| • Beating                         |             |
| • Canning                         |             |
| • Force injection                 |             |
| • Other (Please specify) and rank |             |

### 6.2 Prevalence rate of Sexual violence

| <b>Sexual violence</b>            | <b>Rank</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Defilement                      |             |
| • Rape                            |             |
| • Indecent assault                |             |
| • Compulsion of marriage          |             |
| • Abduction                       |             |
| • Other (Please specify) and rank |             |

### 6.3 Prevalence rate of Psychological violence

| <b>Psychological violence</b>     | <b>Rank</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Teasing                         |             |
| • Humiliation                     |             |
| • Neglect                         |             |
| • Insult                          |             |
| • Other (Please specify) and rank |             |

### 6.4 Prevalence rate of Economic violence

| <b>Economic violence</b>          | <b>Rank</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Child labour                    |             |
| • Child trafficking               |             |
| • Sexual exploitation             |             |
| • Slavery                         |             |
| • Other (Please specify) and rank |             |

### 6.5 Prevalence Rate of the main forms of Violence

Rank according to which of the various forms of violence is common in your area. Assign values from 1 as “most common”.

| <b>Variable</b>        | <b>Rank</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Physical violence      |             |
| Sexual violence        |             |
| Psychological violence |             |
| Economic violence      |             |

## 6.6 Settings of Violence against Children

Where did you experienced or seen a child experience any of the following forms of violence.

Tick  which apply.

| Variable               | Tick <input type="checkbox"/> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| School                 |                               |
| Community              |                               |
| Family                 |                               |
| Workplace              |                               |
| Street                 |                               |
| Other (please specify) |                               |

## 7.0 Indicator area 3: Causes of Violence against Children

*Indicate the extent to which you agree to the following statements as causes of violence against children*

### 7.1 Family related factors

| Variable  | Strongly agree | Agree | Not sure | Disagree | Stro disa |
|---|----------------|-------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Parent or Guardian has suffered violence before |                |       |          |          |           |
| Child lives with single parent or broken home   |                |       |          |          |           |
| Low level of parental education                 |                |       |          |          |           |
| Lack of/inadequate income                       |                |       |          |          |           |
| Young and poor families                         |                |       |          |          |           |
| Overcrowded household                           |                |       |          |          |           |
| Other (please specify)                          |                |       |          |          |           |



## 7.2 Societal/Community Factors

| Variable   | Strongly agree | Agree | Not sure | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| Sexual actions such as incest are considered normal in the society |                |       |          |          |                   |
| Children who suffer violence are stigmatized                       |                |       |          |          |                   |
| Child marriage is accepted norm                                    |                |       |          |          |                   |
| Girls/women are seen as inferior in the society                    |                |       |          |          |                   |

## 8. Indicator area 4: Effects of Violence against Children

Indicate by assigning rank from 1 as the “most common” effects of violence against children.

### 8.1 Effects of Physical violence

| Physical violence        | Rank |
|--------------------------|------|
| • Injury                 |      |
| • Deformity              |      |
| • Ill health             |      |
| • Death                  |      |
| • Other (Please specify) |      |

### 8.2 Effects of Sexual Violence

| Sexual violence                | Rank |
|--------------------------------|------|
| • HIV/AIDS/STI Infections      |      |
| • Trust issues                 |      |
| • Unwanted/unplanned pregnancy |      |
| • Trauma                       |      |
| • Other (Please specify)       |      |

### 8.3 Effects of Psychological violence

| <b>Psychological violence</b> | <b>Rank</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| • Drug and substance abuse    |             |
| • Thought of suicide          |             |
| • Poor academic performance   |             |
| • Trauma                      |             |
| • Trust issues                |             |
| • Other (Please specify)      |             |

### 8.4 Effects of Economic violence

| <b>Economic violence</b>  | <b>Rank</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| • Hunger                  |             |
| • Trauma                  |             |
| • HIV/AIDS/STI Infections |             |
| • Denial of education     |             |
| • Family separation       |             |
| • Other (Please specify)  |             |

**APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE**

**REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND CHILD SEX TOURISM**

This interview guide seeks to solicit your views on violence against children. We would appreciate if you could spare us some of your time to complete the survey for us. *If you wish not to participate in this study, you can do so by not responding to the questions. Answering this survey instrument implies your consent in participating in the study.* Please, note that this exercise is purely for an advocacy purposes. No person or group of persons would be cited or mentioned in the final analysis and discussion of results.

**PROTECTION SYSTEMS FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

- 1. Location of Interview.....
- 2. Name of Interviewer.....
- 3. Designation of Respondent.....
- 4. Institution /Agency.....
- 5. Traditional Area.....

- I. What is the current state of child violence in this district/community?
- II. In your opinion where does child violence occur most?
- III. What legislation (s)/norm(s) are available within your institution/community protect violence against children?

- IV. What measures are adopted by your institution or traditional setting to prevent violence against children?
- V. How does your institution/community deal with reported cases of violence against children?
- VI. How does your institution/community deal with unreported cases of violence against children when they later become aware of through an informant?
- VII. What are some of the challenges your institution/community face in the fight against child violence?
- VIII. In your opinion what are some of the ways of improving on the mechanisms of the fight against child violence?

***The following questions are asked of children only who have either been victims or witnessed child violence***

- I. Are you aware of any legislation or norm/custom that protects children against violence?
- II. Have you or anyone you know sought protection from violence before?
- III. How do you perceive the effectiveness of the protection systems and mechanisms you know of?
- IV. What are your suggestions on improving the protection systems and mechanisms for violence against children?

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