

## **CHILD PROSTITUTION**

Agnes Anim 16years is also a victim of child prostitution. According to her, she comes from Bekwai in the Ashanti region of the republic of Ghana. Agnes came down to Accra with an auntie in 2002 to work to support themselves and the family back home.

According to her, the initial intention was to sell oranges but after some few months in that business they decided to switch on to prostitution, since the prostitution was fetching them a whole lot of money Agnes mentioned that they operate around circle and earns between 80000-120000 cedis per night, but had to pay between 30000- 40000 for using a make-shift brothel. When quizzed as to whether she uses condom to protect herself from contracting STD/HIV she replied in the negative. According to her, initially, she was operating without the use of any condom but with the health education lessons she received from some teachers who have been coming to circle, she decided to use condoms to protect herself from contracting the deadly virus and other sexually transmitted diseases. She went on further to say that, the money she earns from the prostitution business is used to buy some few belongings and also to remit other relations back home.

According to Fatimatu Alimatu,, she is 16 years old and comes from Agona Swedru in the central region of the republic of Ghana. She came to Accra in about two years ago, precisely 2002 with a friend from the same town. On reaching Accra, they were using CMB, as their place of abode. Initially, they decided to sell iced water to support them but realized that was not fetching them enough money to cater for their needs. According to her some of the girls who sell iced water are always in nice clothing and spend lavishly and did not understand why, one of them revealed the secret behind their business

According to them, some of the girls sell iced water during the day practice prostitution during the evenings and can do same to enable her earn enough money if only she is prepared to that which she replied in the affirmative. According to her that same evening, she was introduced into the business and according to her she earns between 80000-120000per night and see the business to be more lucrative than learning a skill to support themselves in future.